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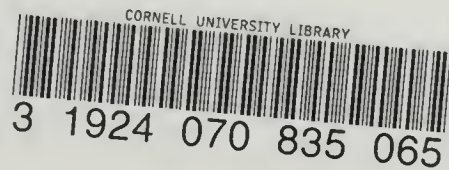


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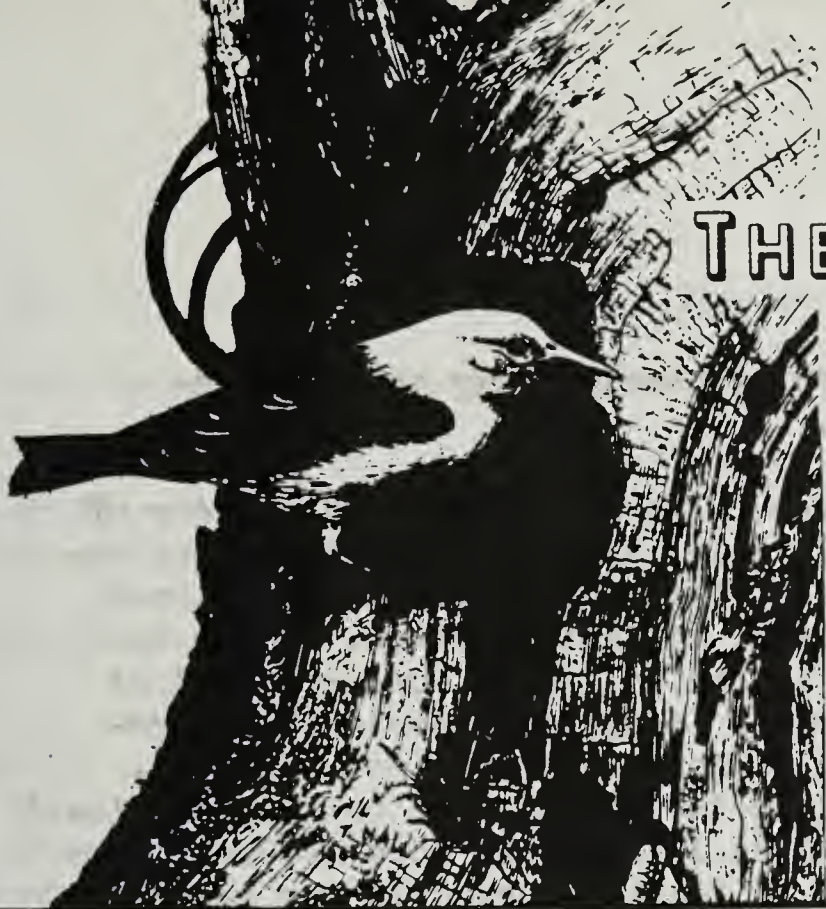


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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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VOLUME 46

JANUARY 1980

APR 8 1980

NUMBER 1

## THE MONTH

December's weather was cloudy and mild with only two periods of snow of significance in the immediate Buffalo area during the entire month. 9.9 inches of snow was recorded in the heavy squalls moving into the city from the east on the 1st and 4.9 inches in a general snowfall on the 19th. While total precipitation for the period measured 3.43 inches, only 19.7 inches of snow fell during December. The average temperature for the month was  $33.4^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ ,  $5.5^{\circ}$  above normal with readings of  $60^{\circ}\text{(F)}$  on both December 11th and 12th. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

With the mild weather of late autumn lingering on and no heavy snow cover, many migrant species usually well south of us by this month, continued to be recorded in our study area. Indicative of this phenomena was the report of two Northern Orioles at a feeder on Lakeshore Road in Lakeview in December. Equally remarkable was the late Lincoln's Sparrow seen in Wellsville on December 27th and the unconfirmed sighting of two Black-and-white Warblers in Salamanca during the month. The annual B.O.S. Christmas census on December 16th included such 'half-hardy' species as Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher Yellow-rumped Warbler, Swamp Sparrow and a Fox Sparrow discovered skulking in the underbrush on Squaw Island by Dave Freeland. On the other side of the coin, for the second consecutive year there was no major flight of winter finches or other boreal and high Arctic birds southward. The first Snowy Owl of the season was not reported until December 9th and by month's end only two of these owls were in evidence, one in Buffalo Harbor and the second, a conspicuous addition to the roof of the club house at the Ransom Oaks golf course at Whitehaven and East River roads on Grand Island. The Grand Island bird was first seen by Bob Brock on his way into the Holiday Inn on the East River Road across from the golf course, late on the afternoon of December 16th. He was about to join his fellow field observers in reporting their lists for the B.O.S. Christmas count when a casual glance at the roof of the Holiday Inn spotted the owl and raised the total count to 82 species!



This owl proved remarkably tame and was seen by nearly every active bird-watcher in the Buffalo area by month's end.

The Niagara River rewarded observers with an interesting variety of ducks and gulls during December. The adult male Barrow's Goldeneye first reported from the upper rapids at Niagara Falls, Ontario in November, remained in evidence during the entire month of December at that location. There were heavy concentrations of gulls in the gorge at the Falls, at Queenston and at the mouth of the river at Lake Ontario in early December. Harold Axtell reported 22 Glaucous Gulls in the vicinity of Niagara Falls on December 27th. The adult Lesser Black-backed Gull reported at the Falls since October continued to be seen while Canadian observers reported at least three more Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the river during the month. A Black-headed Gull was reported from Queenston on December 28th. A putative Great-Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull hybrid was seen by Robert Andrle and his party at Niagara Falls on December 9th. In Dunkirk Harbor, on the south shore of Lake Erie, an immature Sabine's Gull was seen from the 1st through the 3rd of the month.

Other interesting records for the month include a Dickcissel reported from the feeder of Esther Becker in the village of Holland on December 1st. An apparent wintering flock of six Whistling Swans was reported in the Niagara River off of Beaver Island State Park during the month. The first Purple Sandpipers of the season were reported on December 20th when three were observed at Niagara Falls, Ontario by Dave Freeland.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migration
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Common Loon	Dec. 1	1	Buckhorn Is.S.P.	McKales, Rosche
	" 3	1	Niagara River	Schaffner, A. Clark
	" 9	1	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 20	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 20	1	Niagara-on-Lake, Ont.	Freeland
	" 30	1	N. Falls Gorge	Axtell



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Horned Grebe	Dec. 2,9	2	Ft.Erie, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 3	4	Ft.Erie, Ont.	Schaffner, A.Clark
	" 9	2	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Pied-billed Grebe	" 3	2	Ft.Erie Ont.	Schaffner, A.Clark
Canada Goose	" 9	150	Clarence	McKales
	" 31	330	Yates	Freeland, Wilcove
Gadwall	" 3	2	N.Falls(Goat Is.)	Schaffner, A.Clark
	" 3	3	N.Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	" 9	30	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Pintail	" 3	26	N.Falls(Goat Is.)	Schaffner, A.Clark
	" 31	1	Olcott	Freeland, Wilcove
Green-winged Teal	" 3	2	N.Falls(Goat Is.)	Schaffner, A.Clark
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	" 20	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 23	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 23-31	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Axtell
King Eider	" 20F	1	Niagara-on-Lake, Ont.	Freeland
White-winged Scoter	" 1	1	Buckhorn Is.S.P.	McKales, Rosche
	" 20	40	Niagara-on-Lake, Ont.	Freeland
	" 31	41	Golden Hill S.P.	Freeland, Wilcove
Black Scoter	" 3	1	N.Falls Gorge	Schaffner, A.Clark, eta
	" 20	1	N.Falls Gorge	Freeland
Hooded Merganser	" 3	2	N.Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, A.Clark
	" 9	2	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 9	3	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	" 19	1	Allegheny River	VanScoys
Sharp-shinned Hawk	" 1-13,14	1,2	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	" 6-20	1	Belmont	Burtens
	" 8,16,25,28	1,1,1,1	Limestone	VanScoys
	" 9	1	Middleport	Krogs
	" 17,19	1	North Tonawanda	Clemesha, Laux
	" 20,26,28	1,1,1	Wales	Rosches
	" 26	1	Pendleton	McKales
	" 30	1	East Amherst	Freeland
Cooper's Hawk	" 2,20	1,1	Wales	Rosches
	" 4	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	" 16	1	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	" 17,20	1,1	Jamestown	Beal
	" 20	1	Belmont	Burtens
Rough-legged Hawk	" 20	1	Grand Island	Freeland
	" 26	1	Clarence	Freelands
American Coot	" 31	1	Olcott	Freeland, Wilcove
	" 31	1	Niagara-on-Lake, Ont.	Freeland, Wilcove
Killdeer	" 11L	1	Alfred area	Brooks
Common Snipe	" 10L	1	Jamestown	Beal
*Purple Sandpiper	" 20	3	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
Dunlin	" 20	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland

Volume 46, Number 1 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Glaucous Gull	Dec. 3	2	N.Falls Gorge	Schaffner, A. Clark, et al
	" 20	10	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 23	12	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 27	22	N.Falls area	Axtell
	" 31	1	Lakeside Beach S.P.	Freeland, Wilcove
Iceland Gull	" 20	3	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 23	2	Sir Adam Beck Plant	Andrle, et al
	" 30	4	N.Falls area	Axtell
Great Black-backed Gull	" 3	150	N.Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, A. Clark, et al
	" 9	130	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
<u>Lesser-Black-backed Gull</u>	" 9, 23, 30	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 20	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 24, 30, 31	1, 1, 1	N.Falls area	Axtell
Herring Gull	" 3	50,000	N.Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, A. Clark
Franklin's Gull	" 3	1	N.Falls Gorge	Schaffner, A. Clark
	" 9, 16	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Bonaparte's Gull	" 3	20,000	N.Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, A. Clark, et al
Little Gull	" 9	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 20	1	Queenston, Ont.	Freeland
	" 31	1	Ft. Niagara	Freeland, Wilcove
Snowy Owl	" 9F, 24	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, et al
	" 23, 25	1	Grand Island	Andrle, et al
	" 31	1	Grand Island	Freeland, Wilcove
Long-eared Owl	" 31	1	Somerset	Freeland, Wilcove
Saw-whet Owl	" 22, 23, 25	1	Grand Island	Andrle, et al
Common Flicker	" 1-31	1	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Gardiner
	" 20	1	Elma	Forsberg
	" 27	1	Eggertsville	Hulls
	" 31	1	Newfane	Freeland, Wilcove
	" 31	1	Carlton	Freeland, Wilcove
Red-bellied Woodpecker	" 1-22	1-2	Middleport	Krogs, Hazlitt
	" 1-31	1	Belmont	Rulison
	" 2, 11, 19, 20	1	Belmont	Burtens
	" 9	1	Newstead	McKales
	" 14	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
	" 30	1	Wales	Rosches
	" 30	1	Sheldon	Rosches
Tufted Titmouse	" 3-31	2-3	Limestone	VanScoys
	" 4-31	1	Elma	Forsberg
	" 29	2	Hamburg	Freeland, Partridges
Red-breasted Nuthatch	" 15, 20, 28	2, 5, 1	Alfred area	Brooks
	" 29	1	Hamburg	Freeland, Partridges
	" 31	1	Olcott	Freeland, Wilcove
Carolina Wren	" 3	1	Shelby	Schrader
Mockingbird	" 20	1	N.Falls, Ont.	Freeland
	" 30	1	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Axtell
Gray Catbird	" 1-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
American Robin	" 8, 15, 30	35, 35, 5	East Amherst	Freeland, et al
	" 9	45	Newstead	McKales

Volume 46, Number 1 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Dec. 9	1	Newstead	McKales
Northern Shrike	" 18	1	Limestone	VanScoys
	" 29	1	Porter	Wabundes
	" 31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Yellow-rumped Warbler	" 9	1	Scio	V.Pitzrick
	" 26	1	Belmont	Burtons
Eastern Meadowlark	" 22	3	Clarence	Freelands
Red-winged Blackbird	" 1-3	3-1	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 1-7	2-15	Amity	V.Pitzrick
	" 7-13	1-3	North Tonawanda	Clemesha, Laux
	" 11	1	Eggertsville	Freeland
	" 21	8	Limestone	VanScoys
Rusty Blackbird	" 1-5	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	" 9	1	Limestone	VanScoys
Common Grackle	" 1-27	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Brown-headed Cowbird	" 1-31	1-36	North Tonawanda	Clemesha, Laux
	" 2-31	10-60	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 14, 21	1, 6	Limestone	VanScoys
	" 21	3	Amity Lake	V.Pitzrick
	" 31	14	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Gardiner
<u>Dickcissel</u>	" 1	1	Holland	Beckers
Evening Grosbeak	" 1-31	1-40	Amity Lake	V.Pitzrick
	" 1, 13	3	Orchard Park	Saville
	" 2	17	Middleport	Krogs
	" 3-31	35-75	Limestone	VanScoys
	" 4-31	2-75	Belmont	Burtons
	" 5, 9, 14	25, 60, 100	Wales	Rosches
	" 21	12	Jamestown	Beal
	" 27	17	Alfred area	Brooks
Purple Finch	" 9-26	1-4	Belmont	Burtons
	" 30	1	Scio	V.Pitzricks
<u>House Finch</u>	" 1-31, 22	4-16, 22	Belmont	Burtons
	" 1-31	25-40	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 1-31	1-11	Eggertsville	Hulls
	" 2, 9, 16, 30	27, 25, 52, 5	Scio	Pitzricks
Pine Siskin	" 8F	1	East Amherst	Freeland
Rufous-sided Towhee	" 1-16	1	Ft. Erie, Ont.	Gardiner
White-throated Sparrow	" 1-31	2	Jamestown	Beal
	" 1-31	3	Orchard Park	Saville
	" 1-31	32-50	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	" 1-9	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 9	4	Newstead	McKales
	" 10	1	Alfred area	Brooks
	" 19-26, 28-30	1, 2	Belmont	Burtons
	" 22	3	Grand Island	Andrle, et al
	" 27, 28	3, 3	Amity	V.Pitzrick
	" 29	3	Hamburg	Freeland, Partridges
Lincoln's Sparrow	" 27	1	Wellsville	Larson, D. Burton
Snow Bunting	" 22	30	Angelica	J. Jordan
	" 27	12	Amity	M. Jordan



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded this year.....	270
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue.....	1
Plus Wilson's Phalarope (asterisk omitted from May records) .	1
Total for year.....	272

Addenda

<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	Nov. 25	1	Niagara Falls	Schaffner, et al
<u>Sabine's Bull</u>	Nov. 11	1	Queenston, Ont.	Confer, et al
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct. 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark
Philadelphia Vireo	" 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark
Black-and-white Warbler	" 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark
Orange-cr. Warbler	" 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark
Ovenbird	" 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark
Chipping Sparrow	" 25	1	Colden (tower kill)	Schaffner, Clark

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the 51st B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

compiled by David B. Freeland

Another exceptional Christmas Count resulted from the diligent efforts of 48 participants in the Buffalo Circle. Eighty-two species -- third highest total in the 51-year history of the Buffalo Christmas Count -- and an all-time record. 155,582 individual birds were reported in the 16 territories. Only in 1969 (90 species) and 1963 (86 species) did the number of species surpass this December 16, 1979 Count. The previous high mark for individuals (147,655) occurred just one year earlier, in 1978.

A Fox Sparrow observed in rich weed growth near the north end of Squaw Island, Buffalo, was seen for the first time on the Buffalo Christmas Count. It marked the 143rd species (plus three additional races) that Buffalo Count observers have ever recorded.

In addition to the Fox Sparrow, 10 other species attained record highs on the 51st Count, and two species tied previous record highs (the third-ever Barrow's Goldeneye and third-ever Franklin's Gull). This fact, plus only two unusual lows including one all-time record low, contributed to the record number of individuals censused.

Six species were underlined as unusual on the official results reported to National Audubon Society: Barrow's Goldeneye; Goshawk; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Franklin's Gull; Gray Catbird; and Fox Sparrow. Seven were identified as attaining unusual highs for the Buffalo Count: Mallard; Great Black-backed Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Belted Kingfisher; Blue Jay; Cedar Waxwing; and Red-winged Blackbird. Two other record highs -- Rock Dove and House Finch -- were not underlined. Two Unusual lows were singled out for recognition: Black Duck and Hairy Woodpecker. All three Mimidae were seen for the first time ever.



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

The most unusual "miss" on this Count was Short-eared Owl, absent for the first time since 1964. Red-breasted Nuthatch was missing for only the third time in 12 years, although it and Rufous-sided Towhee both were seen during the December 13-19 count period but not on count day.

There were many other interesting features of the 51st Buffalo Circle Christmas Count, as a review of the following results will reveal. In the species account, letters in parentheses indicate territories where the birds were observed, in cases where three or fewer territories reported them.

Date: December 16, 1979.

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory, from the Gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Mostly cloudy in the morning and overcast in the afternoon. An evening storm caused temperatures to drop dramatically and snow to cover previously bare ground, but this change had no effect on birders' ability to cover assigned territories during the Count itself. Count temperatures ranged from 34 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds were from the Southwest at 5-25 miles per hour. Virtually all water surfaces were ice-free.

Coverage: Forty-eight observers, 46 in 19 parties and 2 at feeders, made observations from 5:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Party-hours were 146 (76 on foot and 70 by car), plus 6 hours at feeders and 9½ hours owling. Party-miles were 766 (66 on foot and 700 by car).

Territories and Observers (leaders underlined):

- A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road and area boundary. Robert Andrle, Richard Byron, Marcy Foster, James Gregory, Arthur Partridge, David Partridge, Barbara Tomasi, 46 species; 23,426 individuals.
- B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. Frances Rew, Arthur Schaffner, Pauline Schwartz, Robert Schwartz, Alice Ulrich. 31 species; 8708 individuals.
- C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. Carolyn Frank, Audrey Horbett, Belle Minsley. 17 species; 4250 individuals.
- D. Canada: Black Creek south to Peace Bridge and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way. Denys Gardiner, Ralph Gardiner. 33 species; 43,524 individuals.

Volume 46, Number 1 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

- E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. Harold Axtell, Blayne Farnan, Gerard Meunier, Gary Novosel, Robert Sommerville. 30 species; 1876 individuals.
- F. Niagara Falls: Porter Road, Hyde Park Boulevard, Pine Avenue and Main Street south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands, and east to Military Road. Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Karen Renning. 34 species; 27,700 individuals.
- G. North Tonawanda: Military Road southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. Marie Wendling, Anna Bauer. 23 species; 685 individuals.
- H. Tonawanda: Sheridan Drive north to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River and east to area boundary. Douglas Happ, Joseph Ghosen. 31 species; 1301 individuals.
- J. Buffalo: Sheridan Drive east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. David Freeland, Miriam Klepfer, George Smith, Joseph Thill. 48 species; 9390 individuals.
- K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Road, north of Huth and Long Roads to Niagara River. Lincoln Nutting, William Burch, Arthur Rosche, Olga Rosche. 31 species; 3754 individuals.
- L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road, and Stony Point Road west to Niagara River. Edward Fessler. 27 species; 1667 individuals.
- M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Road and north of Whitehaven Road to Niagara River. Michael Zebehazy, Peggy Daniels. 40 species; 3317 individuals (includes data from Territory "O").
- N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road and Baseline Road west to Niagara River. Robert Brock, Anthony Messina. 22 species; 3684 individuals.
- O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road and Baseline Road east to Niagara River. (All results and coverage included under Territory "M").
- P. Grand Island: Love Road south to Spaulding Road from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. William Bogacki, Esther Becker, Marion Bee, Richard Christensen. 27 species; 5177 individuals.
- Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Road to Niagara River. Alice McKale, Willard McKale. 35 species; 17,123 individuals.



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

Species Account:

Common Loon	4	(B,D)	
Horned Grebe	4	(A,D,J)	
Pied-billed Grebe	1	(D)	Fourth time in 16 years.
Great Blue Heron	12		Most since 1957.
Canada Goose	91	(J,Q)	
Mallard	1338		Record; previous high 1198 (1976).
Black Duck	150		Record low; previous low 181 (1975).
Gadwall	78		Second highest; record 105 (1975).
Pintail	78		Second highest; record 80 (1957).
Green-winged Teal	3	(F)	
American Wigeon	140	(A,F,K)	
Wood Duck	2	(J)	Third time in 12 years.
Redhead	77		
Canvasback	3732		
Greater Scaup	1676		
Lesser Scaup	2	(A)	
scaup, sp.	50		
Common Goldeneye	3198		
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	1	(A)	Third time ever.
Bufflehead	1260		
Oldsquaw	45		
White-winged Scoter	1	(D)	
Surf Scoter	6	(A,D)	
Hooded Merganser	4	(A,D)	
Common Merganser	7578		Most since 1970.
Red-breasted Merganser	33	(E,F,J)	
<u>Goshawk</u>	1	(H)	Seventh time ever; second since 1947.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	(B,D)	
Red-tailed Hawk	89		
Rough-legged Hawk	2	(M)	
Marsh Hawk	4	(B,E,M)	
American Kestrel	32		
Ring-necked Pheasant	76		Most since 1969.
American Coot	1	(A)	
Glaucous Gull	5	(A)	
Iceland Gull	1	(A)	
Great Black-backed Gull	560		Record; previous high 370 (1976).
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1	(A)	Third time ever, all in last 4 years.
Herring Gull	14,229		
Ring-billed Gull	10,056		Record; previous high 9019 (1962).
<u>Franklin's Gull</u>	1	(A)	Third time ever.
Bonaparte's Gull	8488		Second highest; record 12,000 (1967).
Little Gull	3	(A)	Tied second highest ever; record 5 (1967).
gull, sp.	18		
Rock Dove	1672		Record; previous high 1536 (1978).
Mourning Dove	222		Second highest; record 358 (1975).
Screech Owl	10		

Volume 46, Number 1 "Species Account" (con't.)

Great Horned Owl	7		
Snowy Owl	1	(M)	
Long-eared Owl	2	(E)	
Belted Kingfisher	<u>12</u>		Record; previous high 7 (1976,1978).
Common Flicker	<u>21</u>		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	(Q)	
Hairy Woodpecker	5		Tied lowest since 1959.
Downy Woodpecker	71		
Blue Jay	<u>387</u>		Record; previous high 297 (1970).
Common Crow	278		Most since 1960.
Black-capped Chickadee	259		
Tufted Titmouse	2	(H)	
White-breasted Nuthatch	27		
Brown Creeper	18		
Winter Wren	2	(M,Q)	
Mockingbird	1	(C)	
Gray Catbird	2	(E,M)	Record high; fifth time ever.
Brown Thrasher	1	(M)	
American Robin	38		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	21		
Cedar Waxwing	<u>155</u>		Record; previous high 143 (1978).
Northern Shrike	2	(L,M)	
Starling	96,341		Second highest; record 98,842 (1978).
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	(K)	Fifth time in 16 years.
House Sparrow	1911		
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>114</u>	(G,J)	Record; previous high 26 (1976)
Common Grackle	2	(M)	
Brown-headed Cowbird	15	(F,J)	
Cardinal	135		
House Finch	22	(J)	Record; previous high 10 (1978).
American Goldfinch	134		
Dark-eyed Junco	143		
Tree Sparrow	300		Second lowest since 1965.
White-Throated Sparrow	85		Second highest; record 236 (1978).
Fox Sparrow	1	(J)	First time in history of Count.
Swamp Sparrow	1	(J)	
Song Sparrow	27		
Totals:	155,582	individuals	(record; previous high 147,655 - 1978).
	82	species	(third highest ever; record 90 - 1969).

The compiler thanks all who contributed to the Count's fine success.

60 Haymarket Square, East Amherst, N.Y. 14051



1979 CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN THE B.O.S. STUDY AREA

The following chart is a summary of the results of seven Christmas Bird Counts taken within the geographic boundaries of the B.O.S. study area between December 15, 1979 and December 30, 1979. The editor wishes to thank Dr. Robert Andrle for providing count data for publication.

- A. Grand Island: 82 species; 155,582 individuals (12-16-79)
- B. Hamburg/East Aurora: 55 species; 8,749 individuals (12-29-79)
- C. Jamestown: 71 species; 7,132 individuals (12-16-79)
- D. St. Bonaventure: 40 species; 930 individuals (12-15-79)
- E. Oak Orchard: 48 species; 10,954 individuals (12-28-79)
- F. Beaver Meadow: 45 species; 5,554 individuals (12-30-79)
- G. Scio: 41 species; 2,223 individuals (12-29-79)

<u>Species</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
Common Loon	4		2				
Horned Grebe	4		7				
Pied-billed Grebe	1		46				
Great Blue Heron	12	1	3	1	3	3	4
Whistling Swan			361				
Canada Goose	91		59	1	2725	16	1
Mallard	1338	16	200	3	854	12	
Black Duck	150		47		72	2	
Gadwall	78		44				
American Wigeon	140		70				
Northern Shoveler			4				
Wood Duck	2						
Redhead	77		221				
Ring-necked Duck			1				
Canvasback	3732		152			70	
Greater Scaup	1676		41				
Lesser Scaup	2		75				
scaup, sp.	50		16				
Common Goldeneye	3198	64	48				
Barrow's Goldeneye	1						
Bufflehead	1260	5	13				
Oldsquaw	45	17					
White-w. Scoter	1	3					
Surf Scoter	6						
Ruddy Duck			14				
Hooded Merganser	4		160	2	1		
Common Merganser	7578						
Red-br. Merganser	33	1					
Goshawk	1						
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2	1	1	1	1	1	3
Cooper's Hawk		3	3		1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	89	18	2	4	45	10	6

Volume 46, Number 1 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
Red-should. Hawk		2				1	
Rough-leg. Hawk	2						1
Marsh Hawk	4		1		5	2	
American Kestrel	32	12	7		37	7	4
Ruffed Grouse		3	13	1		44	9
Ring-n. Pheasant	76	7	1		6	3	
Turkey		2	1	10		3	10
American Coot	1		1000		1		
Killdeer		1					
Common Snipe			4				
Claucous Gull	5						
Iceland Gull	1						
Great Black-b. Gull	560	10					
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1						
Herring Gull	14,220	54	45		404		11
Ring-b. Gull	10,056	838	83		70		16
Franklin's Gull	1						
Bnnaparte's Gull	8488	2	6				
Little Gull	3						
gull, sp.	18				42		
Rock Dove	1672	677	245	219	250	441	408
Mourning Dove	222	192	129	5	11	56	44
Screech Owl	10	5				2	1
Great Horned Owl	7	2	5	1	3	4	1
Snowy Owl	1						
Barred Owl			1			2	
Long-eared Owl	2		1				
Short-eared Owl		1		1			
Belted Kingfisher	12	2	6	4	2	1	7
Common Flicker	21	2		1	24		
Pileated Wdpkr.		1	4	2	1	1	
Red-bellied Wdpkr.		1		2	8	5	2
Red-headed Wdpkr.	1						
Hairy Woodpecker	5	34	22	2	6	21	17
Downy Woodpecker	71	81	89	9	26	59	36
Horned Lark			1		14	40	
Blue Jay	387	171	182	53	66	82	109
Common Crow	278	721	73	19	176	505	131
Black-c. Chickadee	259	755	553	133	212	509	282
White-br. Nuthatch	27	103	96	22	38	72	44
Red-br. Nuthatch		11	3	2	2	2	3
Brown Creeper	18	17	11		3	16	6
Winter Wren	2						
Carolina Wren					1		
Long-b. Marsh Wren			1				
Mockingbird	1						
Gray Catbird	2						
Brown Thrasher	1						
American Robin	38	14	3		158		7

Volume 46, Number 1 - "Christmas Counts" (con't.)

Species	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	21	8	6	1	1	7	
Cedar Waxwing	155	91	80		94	215	65
Northern Shrike	2	2				1	
Starling	96,341	2087	883	27	3290	790	57
Yellow-r. Warbler	1			1			
House Sparrow	1911	1582	917	216	1900	1319	396
Red-w. Blackbird	114		9		26		
Rusty Blackbird					1		
Common Grackle	2	3	1	2	60		
Brown-h. Cowbird	15	9	42	15	10	64	2
Cardinal	135	158	142	13	31	26	35
Evening Grosbeak		169	8	33	16	643	160
Purple Finch		2		4			9
House Finch	22	3	117	23			68
American Goldfinch	134	314	211	26	92	73	106
Red Crossbill			31				
Dark-eyed Junco	143	301	264	50	63	172	101
Tree Sparrow	300	134	175	9	75	94	44
Field Sparrow			2				4
White-cr. Sparrow			1				
White-thr. Sparrow	85	17	22	3	9	1	6
Fox Sparrow	1						
Lincoln's Sparrow							1
Swamp Sparrow	1		5	1	4	1	
Song Sparrow	27	12	30	6	14	3	5
Snow Bunting						153	

There are 105 species represented, of which 21 appear in all seven Count areas and 29 appear in just one Count area.

NOTES

FEDERATION TO PRODUCE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

In 1980 the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs is initiating the compilation of an atlas of the distribution of the breeding birds of New York State.

The concept of developing an atlas to delineate the distribution of plants or animals for a given geographic area, originated in Britain. The technique uses a grid system, superimposed on a map. In 1968 the amateur and professional ornithologists of Britain and Ireland began work which resulted in the publication in 1976 of "The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland".

As a consequence of the British success, similar mappings are completed,



or underway for France, Denmark, West Germany, and in 16 other European countries as well as New Zealand and Australia. In the U.S., Montgomery and Howard Counties, Maryland began the first atlas project in 1971. Four additional Maryland counties now have projects under way. Massachusetts began a state-wide project in 1973 and field work has been completed. Other Atlas projects are in progress in Marin County, California; Kalamazoo County, Michigan; and in Vermont, Maine, Wyoming and Colorado.

The suggestion that the Federation undertake a breeding bird survey of New York was made by Robert Arbib to the Federation's Executive Committee. The concept and general plan was presented to the Council of Delegates and to the attendees at the 1979 annual meeting in Binghamton last September. It was enthusiastically approved as a desirable Federation undertaking.

The project will be a co-operative venture of the Federation, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with the strong endorsement and support of the National Audubon Society. When completed and published it will be an important addition to the Federation's already significant list of publications: viz. the Kingbird; New York Birders; Bull's Birds of New York State which the Federation initiated and for which it supplied a major share of the data; and the Where To Bird in New York State Baedeker which is well advanced toward publication.

1980 will be an Initiating Year for getting manpower lined up and organized, for a trial of procedures, and general tuning up for the years to follow. The expectation is that the project should be completed in 5 or 6 years -- other such projects have been completed on a similar time table.

The survey will not be an abundance or numerical count but will simply establish whether or not a species breeds in the surveyed block. It is not intended to determine how many of a species breed there. Three categories of breeding evidence will be recorded, namely possible, probable and confirmed. For example, the presence of a species in an area during the breeding season indicates possible breeding; evidence of territoriality shows probable breeding; and finding of a nest or parents feeding young gives proof of confirmed breeding. There will be other criteria in each category of breeding status. Actual finding of nest will be a relatively minor aspect of the field work: few birders are proficient in this skill and it increases the chances of disturbing the birds.

Surveying will be based on a grid system of blocks. For areas that are remote or without locally available survey manpower it may be necessary to enlist "crash teams" to survey them on an expeditionary basis.

What will be gained from such a survey and atlas? In the first place, knowledge of the distribution of breeding birds in New York is spotty, incomplete and not based on any thorough, carefully designed study. This project should correct this lack. It is quite possible that, as has happened in other states, there will be surprises -- species previously unknown as breeders will be confirmed as such, or species will be found breeding where



previously unsuspected. But aside from the correction of this deficiency there will be the fun and satisfaction of birding beyond listing, and of making a much-needed contribution to ornithology. The knowledge thus gained will provide a base for judging the ecologic effects of environmental changes and for developing environmental impact statements. It can pinpoint those areas and breeding species which are in need of specialized preservation efforts. A less tangible but equally important benefit of such a massive, coordinated, cooperative endeavor will be to provide a common effort in which all birders can join with resultant new friendships and birding pleasure -- a cohesive force bringing the state's birders closer together. And it will enhance the Federation's stature as an ornithological organization.

Many observers, much enthusiasm, interest and hard work will be needed to accomplish this task. Birders throughout the state, whether Federation members or not will have an opportunity to participate. A steering committee of 15 under the chairmanship of Gordon M. Meade is developing detailed plans. There will be a project coordinator in each of the state's Kingbird reporting regions. They will be made familiar with the project through Co-ordinator workshops and in turn will work with project representatives from the clubs to develop cadres of surveyors.

Before long details will be available and everyone will have the opportunity to enlist in this exciting project.

Until your regional coordinator and club project representative are determined, (see below) if you have question, comments or suggestions, please send them to me.

Gordon M. Meade, M.D.  
Chairman, Atlas Project  
Steering Committee  
27 Mill Valley Road  
Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project Coordinator for Region 1 (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and western portions of Wyoming, Genesee and Orleans counties) is:

Dr. Robert F. Andrie  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, New York 14211  
tel.: 716-896-5200

The Club Project Representative for the Buffalo Ornithological Society is:

Michael A. Zebehazy  
95 Slate Creek Drive  
Cheektowaga, New York 14227  
tel.: 716-668-0351

We welcome anyone who would like to participate in this project. There will be a workshop soon for representatives of the six Federation member clubs in Region 1, at which detailed information will be given and materials distributed. Meanwhile, if you are interested in joining the project, whether a Society member or not, please contact one of us and we will be happy to tell you more about it and answer any questions you might have.

Robert F. Andrle  
Michael A. Zebehazy

#### PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- March 23: Field trip to Oak Orchard and the Sinks. Leader, Dick Byron (tel. 662-4783). We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Citibank, Transitown Mall, Main St. at Transit Road, Clarence. Late arrivals can meet at 10:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter at the Tonawanda Overlook, Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, south side of Route 77, west of the village of Alabama.
- April 13: April Count. Compiler, Ed Williams (tel. 875-8212 , days; 416-894-3548, evenings). Call Ed to obtain further information or to volunteer to cover one of the B.O.S. Sections for this important annual census.
- April 20: Sunday. Outing with the Genesee Ornithological Society at Braddock's Bay Hawk Lookout at 8:30 a.m.. If the hawks aren't flying we will bird the Lake Ontario shore or other nearby areas. Leaders, Warren Lloyd (tel. 1-265-0281), and Mike Zebehazy (tel. 668-0351). We will meet for car pooling at 6:30 a.m. at Citibank, Transitown Mall, Main St. at Transit Rd., Clarence. Return to Buffalo by early evening.
- April 27: Field trip to Grimsby, Ontario for hawks. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge parking lot on the American side of the river for car pooling. Leader, Bill Burch (tel. 773-3690), and Walter Klabunde (tel. 754-4424, Lewiston).

#### PROGRAM - MEETINGS

- March 26: Hawk Identification Symposium. Conducted in preparation for the spring hawk migration and related hawk counts at Grimsby. Interest and proficiency will be promoted by means of a panel discussion and the use of identifying slides, charts and study skins.
- April 9: The Southern Bald Eagle. David Junkin, Director of the Audubon Society's Beaver Meadow Nature Center will present a program on the Southern Bald Eagle.



JAN. 9, 1980

The meeting was opened by President Brad Lown.

The secretary's minutes were approved as amended.

The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Program

Jan. 23rd	Film
Feb. 13th	Refuge History

The Research committee has listed the following Count Dates:  
April 13th, May 18th and Oct. 12th.

Also the Mini runs will continue, as will the Hawk Watch Project to be run from Mar. 1 to May at the Beamer Conservation Area at Grimsby, Ontario.

During July and August, St. David's Cannery Pond will be watched closely. Ideas have been offered to update the Date Guide.

The Conservation Committee requests, a meeting to be held before the next meeting. The Refuge feeders are active. Wavel Barber is Chairman of the Council authorized changing to Scripto cards for mailing lists.

Tom Klonowski needs help to bring The Prothonotary up to date. Volunteers are requested to help compile records next Thursday or Friday (1/17 or 1/18). He also requested leaders of field trips do a short write-up. Also Members are requested to write up monthly data once or twice a year.

Dave Freeland gave a review of the Christmas Count. Bob Brock showed slides and his actual paintings of the Gulls.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Renning

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Jan. 23, 1980

The meeting was opened by President Brad Lown.

The upcoming programs which have no firm dates are a panel discussion on hawk identification; a panel discussion on warbler identification; and a report on St. David's Pond and shorebirds. For the next meeting (Feb 13th) there is to be a report on the B.O.S. Refuge.



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Minutes" (con't.)

A new member was proposed and accepted, William Broderick.

Four issues of The Prothonotary were put together by volunteers and will be ready for mailing shortly. It was suggested that a permanent committee be established to assist the editor. The membership was asked for a volunteer to assume the responsibility of editor.

The program was a film entitled "Puffins, Predators & Pirates". The film was followed by a period of open discussion concerning current problems with gulls in our area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Daniels

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Avenue Kenmore, New York 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Drive Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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THE MONTH

The mild temperatures of November and December continued into January as the Niagara Frontier enjoyed its first open winter since 1973. Following a brief cold spell during the first week of the period, temperatures were again above normal from January 13th through the 22nd when the weather became more seasonable. The area was buffeted by gale force winds on the 7th but there were no other major weather disturbances during the month. The average temperature for the month was 25.8°(F), 2.1° above the norm and precipitation measured 1.97 inches, 0.93 inches below average. Total snowfall at the Buffalo Airport measured only 10.2 inches in January, most of the accumulation occurring during weather disturbances on the 7th and the 29th. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

January will be remembered as the month of the first occurrence of the Painted Redstart in New York State and only the third such record for the north-eastern part of the continent. This event gained the attention of the national news media because of the hundreds of bird watchers and kindred souls who swarmed into the bucolic community of Dansville in Livingston County to celebrate the redstart's presence. It is a measure of the dramatic interest since the first known occurrence of this warbler in the east, in Massachusetts in 1947. The event attracted the attention of only a relatively few people whose interest in birds was hardly a media event. Livingston County is just a few miles east of the B.O.S. study area and several parties of local observers made the pilgrimage to Dansville to add the bird to their life lists or renew its acquaintance from half-forgotten western trips. The redstart, an adult male, had been appearing daily at a feeder at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dilgard on Leonard Street in Dansville since December 14th and it apparently was thriving on a diet of peanut butter spread there by the Dilgards. Mr. and Mrs. Dilgard were a bit overwhelmed by the attention paid to their tiny feathered visitor (on January 15th, 300 bird watchers appeared at their home!) but proved to be gracious hosts.



The redstart itself was also cooperative, visiting the feeder at regular intervals throughout the day and displaying for the edification of the assembled multitudes. On January 25th, it was strangely absent and a search of the shrubbery surrounding the feeder on the following day revealed a pile of feathers. It is presumed that this bird was the victim of a local domestic cat. Previous records of the Painted Redstart in the northeast were at Marblehead, Massachusetts in October, 1947 and at Durham, Ontario in November, 1971. The redstart was not the only parulid to arouse excitement among the 'listers' in the northeast in January. Another western visitor, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, was reported from London, Ontario.

Locally, it was an interesting month afield. The 'Great Gull Show' on the Niagara River, both above and below the falls, continued to attract observers. On New Year's Day, Bob Andrie and his party started their year's lists with two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Sir Adam Beck generating station at Niagara Falls, Ontario; one gull was an adult and one was a sub-adult bird. A second adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported above the Falls on that date, also. On January 13th, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from the Niagara River at the Sir Adam Beck station including two in second winter and one in third winter plumage. Veteran observers are agreed that at least seven individual Lesser Black-backed Gulls have visited the Niagara River this winter. There were also many sightings of Glaucous, Iceland and Thayer's Gulls in the river, especially below the Falls, in January. The adult male Barrow's Goldeneye first reported in November, continued to be seen in the water impoundment that feeds Dufferin Island at Niagara Falls, Ontario. A second adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was reported on Chautauqua Lake at Celeron by Bob Sundell on January 8th. The sighting marks the third consecutive winter that a bird resembling this one has appeared at this location and local observers are of the opinion that it is the same duck.

Other waterbirds of interest include a late Blue-winged Teal reported from Dunkirk Harbor by Frances Rew on January 6th. Whistling Swans were observed on the Niagara River and on Chautauqua Lake in January and many reports of Canada Geese from all parts of the study area were received. On January 19th, a Dunlin was seen along the shoreline of Three Sisters Island at Niagara Falls while two Purple Sandpipers were reported from the rocks amid the upper rapids near the Canadian Falls. A Red Phalarope was seen at Dunkirk Harbor most of the month.

The mild weather in January continued to keep many migrant passerines in our area while winter finch flocks were virtually non-existent. Many observers remarked on the relatively small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks visiting feeders. Flocks of American Robins were especially numerous in the orchards and swales on the Lake Ontario Plain and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. Harold Axtell recounts a visit to the apple orchard of Mr. and Mrs. Gorenflo on Sherkston Road, a few miles west of Ridgeway, Ontario on January 25th. He was attracted by the large numbers of robins feeding on rotten apples lying on the ground in inch deep snow beneath the trees. Dr. Axtell attempted to count them but the birds were very animated, flying up in the trees or leaving the orchard in small flocks to roost in a wooded area about one quarter of a mile distant. Considerably



fewer birds returned to the orchard than left and so he concluded that even an approximate count of the robins in that area was not possible at that time. Also, large flocks of birds do not suffer close scrutiny by an observer approaching them on foot. Dr. Axtell returned the following day for a second count and in spite of contours in the land hiding many of the feeding birds and the other variables he accurately counted 230 individual birds and estimated the probable size of that population at 250 to 300 robins. Dr. Axtell also reported a winter-Hermit Thrush feeding on hawthorne berries at his home on Rose Hill Road in Fort Erie on January 31st.

Also of interest in January were numerous reports of wintering flocks of cowbirds and a Chipping Sparrow which was seen daily at the Burtons feeder in Belmont in Allegany County.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year

F - Indicates first record for the migration

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Red-necked Grebe	January	5	1	Youngstown	Schaffner
	"	20	1	Niagara Falls	Andrle, et al
Pied-billed Grebe	"	5	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Andrle, et al
	"	6	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
	"	19	3	Celeron	Sundell
D.-crest. Cormorant	"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Gagne
Great Blue Heron	"	1-27	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	"	6	1	Belmont	Burtons, Jordan
	"	14	1	Amity	Burtons, Jordan
	"	15-29	1	Scio	Pitzrick
Whistling Swan	"	1	12	Fluvanna	Sundell, Gagne
	"	20	5	Beaver Island St. Pk.	Mckales
Canada Goose	"	1-30	4000	Iroquois NWR	Morse
			(maximum count)		
	"	5	30	Sunset Bay	Andrle, et al
	"	13	25	Beaver Island St. Pk.	Schaffner
	"	26	11	Riverside	Elderkin

Volume 46, Number 2 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Snow Goose (blue morph)	Jan. 8,22	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	<u>15,23</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Gadwall	" 1	2	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	" 5	9	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
"	" 13	11	Niagara Falls	Schaffner
Pintail	" 5	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
"	" 5,20	18,18	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
"	" 13	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
"	" 13	15	Niagara Falls	Schaffner
"	" 15	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Green-w. Teal	" 1	4	Niagara Falls	McKales
"	" 1	2	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	" 13	2	Niagara Falls	Schaffner
"	" 19,29	1,1	Scio	Pitzrick
Blue-w. Teal	" 6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Redhead	" 1	50	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	" 20	75	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Ring-necked Duck	" 26	1	Celoron	Sundell, Gagne
Lesser Scaup	" 1	1	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	" 27	2	Grand Island	McKales
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	" 1-27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, Axtell, Schaffner, et al
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	" 8	1	Celoron	Sundell, Gagne
Ruddy Duck	" 1	60	SPA Reservoir	Klabundes
"	" 5	2	Niagara Gorge	Schaffner
"	" 13	15	SPA Reservoir	Andrle, et al
Hooded Merganser	" 1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
"	" 1	3	Niagara Falls	Andrle, et al
"	" 20	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
"	" 20	1	Black Creek, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
"	" 20	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 1-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
"	" 6	1	Barcelona	Rew
"	" 9,14	1,1	Wales	Rosches
"	" 11	1	Holland	Becker
"	" 14	1	East Aurora	Bee
"	" 27	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Cooper's Hawk	" .9	1	Fredonia	Sundell, Gagne
"	" 14	1	Town of Kiantone	Sundell
"	" 25	1	Kennedy	Sundell
"	" 25	1	Wales	Rosches
"	" 27	1	Holland	Becker
Rough-leg. Hawk	" 19	1	Alabama	Morse
Marsh Hawk	" 13	1	Clarence	McKales
Turkey	" 15	8	South Wales	Bee
Virginia Rail	" 31	2	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
American Coot	" 1	2	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	" 5	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Andrle, et al
"	" 6	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

American Coot (con't.)	Jan. 9	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Gagne
	" 19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner
	" 26	7	Celoron	Sundell, Gagne
	" 27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freeland et al (BOS)
Killdeer	" 16	1	Limestone	VanScoys
Red Phalarope	" 9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Gagne
	" 15,16	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Stirling
	" 26	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Glaucous Gull	" 1	5	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Klabundes
	" 5	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
	" 13,20	17,17	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 20	16	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
	" 20	1	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
	" 27	12	Niagara River	Freeland, et al (BOS)
Iceland Gull	" 1	6	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 5	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
	" 20	2	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
	" 27	7	Niagara River	Axtell
	" 27	5	Niagara River	Freeland, et al (BOS)
<u>Lesser Black-b. Gull</u>	" 1	1	Sir Adam Beck, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 1,6	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Bonaparte's Gull	" 5	2000	Queenston, Ont.	Schaffner
	" 19	200	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner
Little Gull	" 9	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Gagne
	" 27	1	Lewiston	Freeland, et al (BOS)
Snowy Owl	" 1	1	Grand Island	Andrle, McKale, et al
	" 27	1	Grand Island	Freeland, et al (BOS)
Belted Kingfisher	" 6	1	Wellsville	Pitzrick
	" 6	1	Amity	Burtons, Jordan
	" 10	1	Sheldon	Rosches
	" 13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 13	1	Beaver Island.SP.	Schaffner
	" 14	1	Scio	Burtons, Jordan
	" 15	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Common Flicker	" 1	1	Youngstown	Klabundes
	" 6	1	East Amherst	Freeland
	" 6	2	Tona. Indian Res.	McKales
	" 6	4	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	" 8	1	Holland	Becker
	" 13	1	Kenmore	Thill
	" 14	4	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	" 18	1	Eggertsville	Hulls
Red-bell. Wdpkr.	" 2	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	" 6,13	2,1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Tufted Titmouse	" 1-31	1,4	Limestone	Van Scoys
	" 2-28	1	Elma	Forsberg
	" 12	3	Salamanca (f)	Sundell, Gagne
	" 20	1	Lincoln Park, Tona.	Millard



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Mockingbird	January	1	1	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
"	"	6	1	Lewiston	McKales
"	"	9	1	Jamestown	Sundell, Gagne
"	"	14	1	Belmont	Burtens, Jordan
"	"	16	1	Depew	Barber
"	"	27	2	Lewiston	Freeland, et al (BOS)
Gray Catbird	"	1-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Brown Thrasher	"	1	1	Grand Island	Burch
American Robin	"	1	1	Gerry	Sundell, Gagne
"	"	1-31	1-11	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
"	"	6	27	Newfane	McKales
"	"	10	6	Wilson	Thill, Reckhow
"	"	10	1	East Amherst	Freeland
"	"	14	164	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	"	20	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
"	"	21,22	100,50	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	"	25,26	250	Sherkston, Ont.	Axtell
Hermit Thrush	"	31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Eastern Bluebird	"	14	4	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	1	3	Beaver Island St. Pk.	McKales
"	"	4,30	1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Shrike	"	5	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
Northern Waterthrush	"	5	1	Tifft Farm Nature Cent.	Daniels, Karl
Eastern Meadowlark	"	27	25	Grand Island	Freeland, et al (BOS)
Red-w. Blackbird	"	5,7	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
"	"	7	200	Alabama	Morse
"	"	9,29	1,5	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
Rusty Blackbird	"	1	6	Gerry	Sundell, Gagne
Common Grackle	"	3	1	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
"	"	3	2	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1	12	Jamestown	Sundell, Gagne
"	"	1-31	6-20	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
"	"	5-31	2-16	Belmont	Burtens
"	"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	"	7	3	Holland	Becker
"	"	7	20	Wales	Rosches
"	"	12	20	Kenmore (f)	Thills
"	"	13	2	Bertie Twp., Ont.	Schaffner
"	"	17	3	Town of Tonawanda (f)	Millard
"	"	1-31	3-28	Amity	Pitzrick
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-31	30-100	Belmont	Burtens
"	"	1-31	40	Holland	Becker
"	"	1-31	45-70	Limestone	Van Scoys
"	"	1	15	Ellicott	Sundell, Gagne
"	"	4-29	36-130	Scio	Pitzrick
"	"	6	1	Town of Porter	McKales
"	"	25	80	Wales	Rosches
Purple Finch	"	5	7	East Amherst	Freeland

Volume 46, Number 2 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>House Finch</u>	January	1	8	Eggertsville (f)	Hulls
"	"	1	135	Jamestown	Sundell, Gagne
"	"	1-31	4-20	Belmont	Burtons
"	"	1-31	26-60	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
"	"	3-29	1-3	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
"	"	4-27	2-27	Scio (f)	Pitzrick
"	"	4-29	5-40	Scio (f)	Pitzrick
"	"	5	4	Jamestown (F)	Elderkin
Pine Siskin	"	27	1	East Amherst	Freeland
Chipping Sparrow	"	<u>2-31</u>	1	Belmont	Burtons
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	50	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtell
"	"	1,29	1,1	Belmont	Burtons
"	"	2-31	1-4	Amity	Pitzrick
"	"	6	2	Iroquois NWR	McKales
"	"	6,27	3,2	Grand Island (f)	McKales
Swamp Sparrow	"	31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtell
Snow Bunting	"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
"	"	26	200	Hermitage	Barber

Other species reported in January: Mallard, Black Duck, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Common Merganser, Red-br. Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-br. Nuthatch, Red-br. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Species, sub-species and hybrids recorded this month.....96

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT

compiled by Alan H. Reckhow

Following are the results of the Twenty-sixth Annual Waterfowl Count for region #1 of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The Kingbird will publish the statewide count at a later date.

Dates included January 5 - January 13 with January 6 as the target date.

Pied-billed Grebe	-	6	-	-	High average
Whistling Swan	-	6	-	(E)	Highest ever
Canada Goose	-	3241	-	-	Very High
Snow Goose	-	1	-	(N)	1st time seen
Mallard	-	3576	-	-	2nd highest



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

Black Duck	-	291	-	-	2nd lowest
Gadwall	-	60	-	-	2nd highest
Pintail	-	20	(E,F)	-	Average
Green-winged Teal	-	3	(E)	-	Average
Blue-winged Teal	-	1	(I)	-	1st time ever
American Wigeon	-	153	-	-	2nd highest
Wood Duck	-	2	(P)	-	Average
Redhead	-	22	-	-	Very low
Common Goldeneye	-	9190	-	-	Highest ever
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	2	(E,J)	-	Highest ever
Ringed-necked Duck	-	1	(D)	-	Average
Canvasback	-	771	-	-	Lowest ever
Greater Scaup	-	908	-	-	2nd lowest
scaup, sp.	-	990	(D)	-	2nd lowest
Bufflehead	-	272	-	-	Low average
Oldsquaw	-	48	-	-	Low
Ruddy Duck	-	18	(D)	-	Highest ever
Hooded Merganser	-	7	-	-	Average
Red-breasted Merganser	-	27	-	-	2nd lowest
Common Merganser	-	2348	-	-	Very low
American Coot	-	11	-	-	Average
Total Species	-	26	-	-	Ties with the highest
Total Individuals	-	21975	-	-	Average

The following people took part in the count:

A- Lake Ontario - Pt. Breeze to Olcott	-	Robert Wagner
B- Lake Ontario - Ft Niagara to Olcott	-	Joe Thill & Alan Reckhow
C- Ft Niagara to Gorge at Falls	-	Marj Frank
D- Niag-on-the-Lake to Gorge at Falls	-	Lincoln Nutting
E- Buffalo North Harbor to Goat Island	-	Walter & Harriet Klabunde
F- Ft Erie to Canadian Falls	-	H. Axtell, Ralph & Denys Gardiner
G- Grand Island	-	H. Mitchell & B. Lewandowski
H- Lake Erie - South Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek	-	R. Andrle, Marcya Foster, Josef & Joann Hauser
I- Silver Creek to Penn. Line	-	F. Rew & M. Dornhaffer
J- Jamestown	-	Robert Sundell
K- Olean - Salamanca	-	Lou Burton
M- Batavia	-	G. Seamans & M. Mason
N- Oak Orchard & Ton. WMA	-	John Morse
O- Iroquois Nat. Wildlife Refuge	-	" "
P- Williamsville area	-	Marie & Marg. Wendling
Q- Delaware Park, Forest Lawn, Zoo	-	Cynthia Millard

Comment:

Lakes Erie and Ontario were open except for some floating ice far from shore. Lake Chautauqua was frozen over. Dunkirk Harbor, of course, was open. The weather was cold, blustery and overcast for the most part.



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

Two of the Waterfowl (Snow Goose and Blue-winged Teal) were seen for the first time. Ten of the species were seen in the highest numbers or were extremely high. On the other hand, seven species were very low in numbers or were the lowest ever seen. Does this represent a change in our species population or is it a normal variation?

Thanks very much to everyone who took part in this count.

1570 Colvin Blvd.  
Kenmore, N.Y. 14223

### B.O.S. FIELD TRIPS REVISITED

LAKE ONTARIO PLAIN - February 24, 1980

Ten birders gathered in Lewiston on a mild, overcast day to find wintering birds on the Ontario Plain. We started at the river at Lewiston Landing where a Mockingbird and a flock of some 40 Cedar Waxwings drew as much attention as the Oldsquaw, Scaup, Mergansers, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on the river. Proceeding down River Road we spotted a Mockingbird in the brush at the border of Joseph Davis State Park but a drive through the Park failed to turn up the flock of Robins seen there on February 20. Driving through two residential areas viewing activity at feeders produced two more Mockingbirds, a Robin, Juncos and a Mourning Dove besides the usual House Sparrows.

At Fort Niagara at the Coast Guard Station, Mallards, a Canvasback, White-w. Scoters, a Black Duck, great flocks of Oldsquaw flying well out in the lake, with scaup and mergansers spotted here and there added to the count. At Lakewood just east of Fort Niagara State Park a Red-h. Woodpecker responded to imitative calls. Stops at 4-Mile State Park and Oakland Rural Cemetery turned up a few sparrows and a Red-t. Hawk. Traveling up and down rural roads yielded little besides an occasional Red-t. Hawk, Kestrel, and Mourning Dove. Small groups of sparrows flushed from roadsides but vanished so quickly into the brush it was not possible to identify any. At Krull Park in Olcott keen ears caught the soft calls of Golden-cr. Kinglets and a couple of Red-br. Nuthatches in the evergreens. The last stop of the trip on Calkins Road added another Mockingbird, Chickadees and a White-thr. Sparrow in a large flock of House Sparrows. The day's list totaled 33 species.

Harriette and Walter Klabunde, 4293 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y.  
14092

B.O.S. FIELD TRIPS REVISITED

OWL OUTING - March 9, 1980

Bright sunlight initiated the day as some twenty-nine members and guests of the B.O.S. met with six members of the Peninsula Field Naturalists of St. Catharines near the outskirts of Port Colborne for the third annual owl outing.

Intermittent cloud cover and a nippy 22°F. did not dissuade the eager group from tracking through two pine groves off Lorraine Road to be rewarded by the sighting of two Saw-whet Owls and three Long-eared Owls. Although the first Saw-whet sighted was quite nervous, flying about the grove until it finally eluded us, the second bird roosted peacefully and every member had ample time to observe it.

Just off a seldom-used roadway, in a sparsely-wooded area in the middle of the city, members were delighted to have a clear view of a Screech Owl in the grey phase sitting in the cavity of a tree. A stop on Lakeshore Road West, just west of Cement Road, produced two Great Horned Owls, the female sitting on an unusual nest in the crotch of a large deciduous tree, and the male in a nearby pine. This is the third consecutive year this pair has nested here as observed by the writer.

A mile walk into the Wainfleet bog flushed four Short-eared Owls in their moth-like flight.

The day wound up at Mitchell's Reserve in Wainfleet-- a large wooded lot where two Great Horned Owls were flushed.

Twenty-seven species were recorded for the day including eight birds of prey, five being owls, as well as Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and American Kestrel.

Marcy Foster; Blayne Farnan

Great Blue Heron Study Continues

In July 1979 the Colonial Bird Register conducted the first of a multi-year survey on the distribution and status of New York State populations of the Great Blue Heron. We had very good success in learning many of the locations where the species nests, but we are sure there is information yet to be gained. In 1980 and 1981, we want to learn about nesting colonies that currently are unknown to us; and we also need additional information on colonies for which we already have some data.

As part of our effort, we will be conducting special aerial surveys across much of the state, but our aerial work must be supplemented by additional coverage from persons on the ground. Any information which New York residents who are interested in birds can provide will be very useful.



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Heron Study" (con't.)

Use of our form will help standardize the kinds of information reported by many different people. We especially need data on numbers of active nests and a reasonably accurate map of the colony location, showing the position of the site in relation to named roads, towns or bodies of water. Such data will be especially useful in future aerial work that the Colonial Bird Register undertakes.

Just writing and telling us about colonies is fine, but actually visiting a site is better. In this way, you can report the most up-to-date and accurate data available. However, when you visit colonies, please make every effort to avoid disturbing the nesting birds. This is especially important at the beginning of the breeding season and when the young are small. If the colony is located on private land or a state wildlife management area, please be sure to contact property owners or local conservation officers to avoid infringement of property rights.

Thank you for your help. We are looking forward to learning more about the Great Blue Heron, which is such a magnificent part of our natural landscape.

Donald A. McCrimmon, Ph.D.

Director

Note: Forms are available from the editor.

NOTES

A Record of the Painted Redstart in Livingston County

The sun was still below the horizon January 16, 1980 when we reached the home of Mary and Charles Dilgard at 40 Leonard St. Dansville and -- THE BIRD was there at the feeder! What a beauty! The Dilgards gave us the royal treatment, inviting us into their home to watch the bird which came within 20 feet of their picture window.

About the same size as our American Redstart and a little smaller than an English Sparrow, it had a tiny needle-like bill. The head, neck, throat, back and top of tail were a rich black. Below the black throat, across the breast was a large patch of brilliant red which met the white of the belly just in front of the legs. The bird had a conspicuous white patch in the wings just back of the shoulder and a wide strip of white on each side of the tail.

As it crept down the trunk of the small apple tree to the peanut butter Mrs. Dilgard had spread there, it dipped its body this way and that, flitting its wings and tail (to show off the white?) and danced around in lively fashion. Sometimes it went to the suet basket but seemed to be after the peanut butter there, too. A couple times it gave a melodious call, a short "chree" similar to but more musical than that of a House Sparrow.



Volume 46, Number 2 - "Painted Redstart" (con't.)

The bird returned to feed about every ten minutes between 8:00 and 9:40 A.M. Then it left not to come back until 10:30. What a gorgeous bird to get for our life list -- our first for 1980.

The Painted Redstart is a warbler of the mountains of Central America, Mexico and southwestern United States, occurring in west Texas, New Mexico and Arizona and accidentally in southern California. I understand that this bird had been coming regularly to the Dilgard feeder since December 14, 1979. This is the first appearance of the species in New York State and only the second in the East. One was observed October 18, 1947 at Marblehead Neck, Massachusetts. In Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers, Part Two, Bent says it is unlikely that the Painted Redstarts seen in the past are escaped caged birds as the food habits of the warblers discourage keeping them in captivity.

An extra bonus for the trip was seeing a female Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, also at the Dilgard feeder, drinking concentrated orange juice from a hollow half-orange shell stapled to a tree limb.

Ray and I felt the day was very special. We saw not just one -- but two unusual birds! That Oriole should have left September 20th.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick  
Amity Lake  
Belmont, New York 14813  
January 21, 1980

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Meeting Highlight - February 13, 1980

A new member was proposed and accepted: Thomas Harper.

Several announcements were made by Brad Lown:

- Mike Zebehazy will be the new Vice-President.
- A roster committee has been appointed to update the membership roster.
- A representative is needed from the B.O.S. to coordinate the area for the Breeding Bird Atlas. Those with suggestions or wishing to volunteer should see Brad.

The membership approved an expenditure for "Posted" signs needed for the B.O.S. Refuge on Grand Island.

The program was "The B.O.S. Refuge - A Historical Review" given by Harriette Klabunde.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

May 14: The Mackenzie River Delta - Morgan Jones

In 1972, Morgan Jones accompanied an archeological group from the National Museum of Canada on a month long study of the Mackenzie River delta in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Jones will give a slide presentation and talk on his experiences.

Morgan Jones, Lt. Col., U.S. Army Ret., is a member of the Lake Erie Bird Club of Fredonia; Publicity Chairman of the New York State Breeding Bird Survey organization and the author of several articles on birds.

May 28: Ecuador - Ornithologist in Paradise - Dr. James Parker

Dr. James Parker, Assistant Professor of Biology at State University College at Fredonia, will describe his experiences during a recent SUNY field course held at the Rio Palenque Science Center, Quito, Ecuador. During the study, Dr. Parker observed and photographed birds in the lowland tropical rainforest.

PROGRAM - COUNTS

May 18: MAY COUNT - Compilers John and Mary Forness (1-968-1978, Cuba, N.Y.). Call the compilers to obtain further information or to volunteer your help in covering one of the 28 B.O.S. Sections for this important annual count.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

May 25: Canadian shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels (hopefully). We will meet with leader Dick Byron (662-4783) at 7:30 a.m. at the Vermont and Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge and 7:45 a.m. at the first parking lot south of the Peace Bridge on the Canadian side of the river.



Volume 45, Number 2

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Avenue Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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BUFFALO, NEW YORK

VOLUME 46

MARCH 1980

NUMBER 3

## THE MONTH

February temperatures were seasonal as the milder weather of early winter ended. The average temperature for the month was  $21.2^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ ,  $3.2^{\circ}$  below normal. The first severe cold spell of the winter did not occur until the last week of February and the temperature fell below  $0^{\circ}\text{(F)}$  in Buffalo, on the 29th. It was the first below zero reading in the city in twelve months when a  $-3^{\circ}\text{(F)}$  temperature was recorded at the Greater Buffalo International Airport on that date. Precipitation was light in February, only 1.08 inches of moisture being recorded, 1.47 inches below normal. Snowfall at Buffalo measured only 11.7 inches. There was a general snowfall in Buffalo on five days during the month but the snow depth never reached two inches on any day. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

In spite of the return to colder weather, numerous reports of sightings of 'half hardy' birds wintering in our study area continued. Most of the reports of unusual passerines were from feeders. The Chipping Sparrow reported at the feeder of Doris and Lou Burton in Belmont, N.Y. in January, continued to frequent that location during the month of February. There were also unconfirmed reports of other wintering Chipping Sparrows, one bird at a feeding station on Coleman Road in the Town of Marilla and a belated report of one from a feeder on Colfax Street in the City of Jamestown on January 23rd. A Brown Thrasher visited a feeder in Athol Springs in early February and two Gray Catbirds were seen, one at Harold Axtell's sanctuary on Rose Hill Road in the Town of Fort Erie, Ontario and a second on Clinton Street in West Seneca. Hermit Thrushes were seen at Rose Hill Road and at a feeder on Sheriff Road in the Town of Orchard Park. Other interesting records include a maximum count of sixty-two White-throated Sparrows visiting Dr. Axtell's feeder at Rose Hill Road during February and approximately fifty Cardinals were also seen at that location. The feeder maintained by Arthur and Olga Bosche on Fish Hill Road in the Town of Wales attracted some unusual birds including a Pileated Woodpecker and an



immature Red-shouldered Hawk, a very rare raptor in these climes in winter.

Sunday, February 17th, proved a fortunate day afield for a party of local observers. Arthur and Mary Clark and Arthur Schaffner were driving by the intersection of N.Y. Route #5 and Pratt Road in the Town of Portland in Chautauqua County when Mary Clark glimpsed what she believed to be several deer in a woods there. Upon alighting from the car to investigate, they were pleasantly surprised to find a small flock of birds which on examination proved to be Yellow-rumped Warblers. Thirty-one birds were counted but probably more were present. Although no Bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica) shrubs were seen, the plant is locally common in that area and it is one of the principal items of diet for wintering birds of this species in New York State. On February 18th, Frances Rew and Lois Buck were driving through the Kent Switch area near South Dayton when they observed a large flock of birds feeding on spilled corn on the road next to a corn field. They stopped and recorded an impressive list of thirteen species of winter birds including 165 Tree Sparrows, a Rufous-sided Towhee, a White-throated Sparrow, Cardinals, Horned Larks, juncos and six Common Flickers!

On the Niagara River, the male Barrow's Goldeneye, which by now had been seen by almost every bird-watcher in the area, continued to be reported from the water impoundment that feeds Dufferin Island Park at Niagara Falls, Ontario. The second male Barrow's Goldeneye, reported from Celoron on Chautauqua Lake in January, also was seen at that location throughout February. Other interesting records from the Niagara River include two Purple Sandpipers wintering among the rocks in the rapids above the Falls and several records of Tayer's Gulls including adult and sub-adult birds. On February 4th, seven Little Gulls and a Black-headed Gull were among a flock of 200 Bonaparte's Gulls seen at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

On January 31st, Odmund Olsen, a biological technician at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge made the unusual discovery of two wintering Virginia Rails in a cattail marsh next to a feeder canal access road in the refuge. On the following day, he located one of the rails again which he photographed. Finally, the Red Phalarope, first reported from Dunkirk Harbor in January, remained there during the entire month of February.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year

F - Indicates first record for the migration

Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Pied-billed Grebe	February	17	1	Celoron	Schaffner, Clarks
	"	18	2	Celoron	Sundell, Gagne
	"	19	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
Great Blue Heron	"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	6,14	1,1	Amity	Pitzricks
	"	12,21	1,1	Amity	Burtons
	"	16	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, et al
Whistling Swan	"	18	8	Celoron	Sundell, Gagne
Canada Goose	"	1-18	50-129	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	5	2250	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	"	17	2	Langford Pond	Schaffner, Clarke
	"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
	"	27	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
Gadwall	"	9	7	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	17	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner, Clarks
Pintail	"	7	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
*Wood Duck	"	4,13	1,1	Portville	Van Scoys
Ring-necked Duck	"	1-29	1	Celoron	Sundell, et al
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	"	1-29	1	Celoron	Sundell, et al
	"	9	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	11	1	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	17	1	Celoron	Schaffner, Clarks
*White-w. Scoter	"	15	400	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Axtell
	"	24	30	Fort Niagara St.Pk.	Klabundes, et al (BOS)
Ruddy Duck	"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
Hooded Merganser	"	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Schaffner
	"	9	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	8	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Cooper's Hawk	"	1,3,8,27	1,1,1,1	Wales	Rosches
	"	1-29	1	Belmont	Burtons
	"	1-29	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	6	1	Buffalo	McKales
	"	17,18	1,1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	18	1	Evans	Andrle, et al
	"	18	1	Tonawanda	Thills
	"	18	1	Amith	Burtons
	"	20	1	Jamestown	Sundell
	"	23	1	Cheektowaga	Andrle, Foster
	"	29	1	Orchard Park	Saville
*Red-should. Hawk	"	6	1	Wales	Rosches
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	5,17	1,1	Amity	Pitzricks
	"	8	1	Alabama	Morse
	"	10,16	1,1	Falconer	Sundell, Gagne
	"	15	1	Welland, Ont.	Novosel



Volume 46, Number 3 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Rough-leg. Hawk (con't.)	"	18	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
Marsh Hawk	"	10	1	Clarence	McKales
	"	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	"	20	1	Niagara Fall, Ont.	Novosel
Virginia Rail	"	1	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
American Coot	"	1-29	7	Celoron	Sundell, et al
	"	17	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner, Clarks
	"	19	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
*Purple Sandpiper	"	9	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Red Phalarope	"	9,16,17,18	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
	"	17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner, Clarks
	"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
Glaucous Gull	"	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	9	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
Iceland Gull	"	9	1	Sir Adam Beck Sta, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	9,10	8,5	Sir Adam Beck Sta., Ont.	Axtell
Bonaparte's Gull	"	9	50	Queenston, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	17	4	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Farnan, Novosel
	"	17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner, Clarks
Snowy Owl	"	10	1	Wheatfield	McKales
*Long-eared Owl	"	24	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Farnan, Novosel
*Short-eared Owl	"	29	1	Town of Portland	Freeland
*Saw-whet Owl	"	24	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Farnan, Novosel
Belted Kingfisher	"	9,14	1,1	Scio	Burtons
	"	10,17	1,1	Amity	Pitzricks
	"	16,17	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, et al
	"	26	1	Amity	Burtons
Common Flicker	"	10	2	Pendleton	McKales
	"	17	2	Stamford, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	18	6	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
	"	20	1	Elma	Forsberg
	"	21	1	Holland	Becker
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	15	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	"	17,18	1,1	Middleport	Krogs
*Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	20	2	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	24	1	Town of Porter	Klabundes et al (BOS)
*Horned Lark	"	9	4	Java	Rosches
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	"	17	3	N. Java	Barber
	"	17	13	Conewango	Schaffner, Clarks
*Horned Lark( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	"	10	1	Town of Poland	Sundell, Gagne
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-29	2-4	Limestone	Van Scoys
	"	3-29	1	Elma	Forsberg
	"	15	2	Welland, Ont.	Novosel
Mockingbird	"	11,15	1,1	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	"	20	1	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	24	5	Lewiston, Ont.	Klabundes, et al (BOS)
Gray Catbird	"	1-29	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	"				

Volume 46, Number 3 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

American Robin	"	1-29	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	"	2,23	1,2	E. Amherst	Freeland
	"	9	1	Bertie Twp., Ont.	Schaffner
	"	12,17	1,1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	18,19	1,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	19	25	Buffalo	Millard
	"	20	50	Jos. Davis St. Pk.	Klabundes
	"	20	50	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	24	1	Lewiston	Klabundes et al (BOS)
	"	27	1	Grand Island	Klabundes
Hermit Thrush	"	1-12	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	4	4	Sheldon	Rosche
	"	24	2	Olcott	Klabundes et al (BOS)
Northern Shrike	"	5	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	23	1	Clarence	Andrle, Foster
	"	24	1	East Aurora	Andrle, et al
	"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	29	1	Town of Portland	Freeland
*Yellow-r. Warbler	"	17	<u>31</u>	Town of Portland	Schaffner, Clarks
	"	17	1	Town of Ellery	Sundell, Carlsons
Eastern Meadowlark	"	8	1	Bason	Morse
Red-w. Blackbird	"	10	12	Scio	Pitzrick
	"	20	1	Depew	Barber
	"	23	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	29	3	Town of Sheridan	Freeland
Common Grackle	"	20	1	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	25	1	Holland	Becker
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-29	2-10	Belmont	Burtons
	"	1-27	6-20	Eggertsville	McKales
	"	9	1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	10	3	Holland	Becker
	"	14	24	Cheektowaga	Schaffner, Schwartz
	"	27	25	Wales	Rosches
	"	28	110	Eggertsville	McKales
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-29	40	Holland	Becker
	"	1-29	35	Orchard Park	Saville
	"	1-29	35-60	Limestone	Van Scoys
	"	1-29	25-75	Belmont	Burtons
	"	1-29	3-18	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	9	3	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	15	120	Wales	Rosches
	"	18	30	Jamestown (f)	Sundell, Gagne
Purple Finch	"	1-29	1-6	Belmont	Burtons
	"	1-29	1	Amity (f)	Pitzrick
	"	6	4	Wales	Rosches
House Finch	"	1-29	2-8	Belmont	Burtons
	"	1-29	15-42	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	"	2	6	Buffalo	Freeland



Volume 46, Number 3 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>House Finch</u> (con't.)	"	3-24	2-18	Scio (f)	Pitzrick
	"	14	9	Cheektowaga	Schaffner, Schwartz
	"	17	10	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Novosel
	"	17	27	Scio (f)	Pitzricks
	"	22	2	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	"	25	1	Holland	Becker
*Rufous-s. Towhee	"	18	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
Tree Sparrow	"	18	165	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
Chipping Sparrow	"	1-29	1	Belmont	Burtons
*Field Sparrow	"	9,18	1,1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	26-29	1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	29	1	Orchard Park	Saville
*White-cr. Sparrow	"	9-29	1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	9	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-29	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	"	1-29	62	Rose Hill Rd.Ont. (f)	Axtell
	"	2-25	1-3	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	5,7	1,1	Belmont	Burtons
	"	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	18	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
	"	24	1	Town of Porter	Klabundes et al (BOS)
Swamp Sparrow	"	1-14	1	Rose Hill Rd.Ont.(f)	Axtell
Song Sparrow	"	1-27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	1-29	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	"	1-29	1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	1-29	2	Rose Hill Rd.Ont. (f)	Axtell
	"	1,2	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
	"	18	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
	"	24	1	Lewiston	Klabundes, et al (BOS)
	"	27	2	Wales	Rosches
Snow Bunting	"	8	25	Holland	Becker
	"	9	30	Rushford	Andrle, Foster

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded this year..... 96

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue..... 14

Total for year.....110

BIRDBANDING AT FARMERSVILLE STATION - 1979

by Donald F. Clark

This report summarizes the bird banding activities at our private refuge for the year 1979. The 46 acre refuge is located in Farmersville Township of Cattaraugus County in New York State. The exact location is latitude 42°2' and longitude 78°2'. On a road map, it is approximately one mile south of Farmersville Station, New York on Hicks Road. The post office address is Franklinville, New York 14737.

Banding was conducted on 199 days this year. This is 31 days fewer than the average for the past six years. This is the period of time we have lived permanently at the refuge. The decrease was due to more participation in other activities away from the refuge and to the poor migration in both spring and fall. Fewer birds were banded this year than in any other full year of banding. Nets were used on 79 days and traps on 152 days. No banding was done during June and only traps used in July when a flock of Purple Finches came to our feeders in numbers. Fall netting was started on 19 August.

The weather in 1979 was warmer than normal for the year with 8 months averaging above normal and 4 months below normal. Temperatures ranged from a high of 90°F in May, July and August to a low of minus 22°F in February. There were 85 days of snow with 102 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches of snow falling. A normal year would have 76 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches of snow. It rained on 157 days with 36 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches of rainfall. This compares to a norm of 40 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. There was one late day of frost on 16 June that raised havoc with gardens and nestlings. I counted 16 dead Tree Swallow nestlings in 5 bird boxes on the edge of our three acre pond. There was frost on 9 September and 20 September but the real killing frost was 10 October. Although the rainfall was near normal this fall, it occurred as light rains for many days at a time. The ground never dried out and nets were inoperable much of the time.

A large flock of Robins remained feeding on the wild fruit in the area. They did not leave until the last of November. On 26 November, I observed one bird feeding just outside our windows. I realized it was smaller than the usual Robin and much lighter on the back. The eye stripe was buff to orange in color. There were no spots on the breast. In checking Robbins, Birds of North America it was identical to the female Varied Thrush illustrated on page 231. Unfortunately it flew off before I could get another observer to view it.

Our pinioned Canada Goose layed her first egg in 6 inches of snow, during a blizzard and with no nest on 7 April. Luckily, she chose a spot directly in front of our house window. She laid an egg every other day until the nest was complete with four eggs. We kept the eggs in the refrigerator during the night as the temperatures outside went down as low as 8°F. By the end of a week she had made a nest of straw. All eggs were returned and she commenced incubating. The gander protected the nest so well that he would not let the goose back on once she left. Therefore, we had to pen him. Then six wild geese came in at dawn each day and drove her off the nest. To protect the poor goose, we fenced her in on the nest. Each night the fence was opened and each day at dawn it was closed. On 19 May two goslings hatched. One egg was about one day away from hatching but the embryo was dead. The other egg was addled. The goose walked the goslings all over including our neighbors swamp. She returned 28 May with only one gosling. This one survived and is still on the pond with its parents. One of the wild geese that came in November 1976 is still here so there are four geese on the pond every day.



Volume 46, Number 6 "Birdbanding" (con't.)

We participated in the Buffalo Ornithological Society Bird Counts on 8 April, 20 May and 14 October. We walked the two miles of trails on our refuge, checked bird life on the three ponds and walked another two miles on the dirt road to our paper box. We also checked all feeders during the day. This year we did not drive the usual route in Section 18.

A mini-route Breeding Bird Survey was conducted for Dr. Clarence Klinginsmith of Alfred University on 28 June. This route is in Allegany County.

The Christmas Bird Count was taken on 15 December in the St. Boneventure University circle.

All sight and banding records are sent to Mrs. Vivian Pitzrick for her Region 1 report in the Kingbird. This is the quarterly publication of avian records of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs.

Feeder reports are sent monthly to Mrs. Wilma Csont for inclusion in the Buffalo Audubon Society records.

During the year, I continued to compile Region IV Atlantic Flyway Review and also to help edit the other region reports. This is published in the North American Bird Bander edited by Mrs. Nadia Mutchler.

The 1978 report of Farmersville Station Bird Banding was partially published in Vol. 45 #4 April 1979 of The Prothonotary. This is the monthly magazine of the Buffalo Ornithological Society edited by Michael Zebehazy.

Selected parts of the report were also published in Vol. #3 May 1979 issue of the Catbird. This is a bimonthly magazine of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club edited by Mrs. Regina Van Scoy.

Banding Returns in 1979:

The following birds were recaptured 90 days or more after their previous capture.

Species	Ind	Times	Known minimum years of age							Total
			7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1							1
Blue Jay	12	12				3			9	12
C. Grackle	1	1					1			1
Purple Finch	1	1						1		1
Tree Sparrow	8	8		1		1	3	1	2	8
S.C. Junco	10	10							10	10
Song Sparrow	6	6			1		1	2	2	6
Cardinal	3	4			1		2			3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	4				2		2		4
Black-capped Chickadee	74	95			2	4	9	28	31	74
Verry	2	2						2		2
Total	122	144	1	1	4	10	16	36	54	122

Volume 46, Number 3 - "Birdbanding" (con't.)

Recoveries in 1979:

Three recovery reports were received from the Bird banding Office in 1979.

Evening Grosbeak:

#771-25538: Banded on 02-05-75 at the refuge as an ASY-M. It was trapped by Dr. H.C. McDade on Manns Hill Road, Littleton, New Hampshire. It was captured and released on 02-19-79. This is approximately 355 miles northeast by east from the banding station.

Evening Grosbeak:

#821-92777: Banded 05-03-76 at the refuge as an AHY-F. It was trapped by Dr. H.C. McDada on Manns Hill Road, Littleton, New Hampshire. It was captured and released on 04-18-79. This is about 355 miles northeast by east of the refuge.

Evening Grosbeak:

#771-25642: Banded 04-25-75 at the refuge as an AHY-F. It was trapped by Mrs. Glen Metcalf at Plainview, Vermont. It was captured and released on 04-30-79. This is about 342 miles northeast of the banding station.

Foreign Retraps in 1979:

There were no foreign retraps this year.

Recap of Returns, Recoveries and Foreign Retraps:

	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
Banded	588	1332	1652	1690	1530	2036	2074	2085	2439	2622	2340	1600	1224	1102	24314
Returns	12	127	157	209	168	214	204	184	225	184	207	79	97	122	2189
Recovery		3	5	2	4	5	3	3	5	7	15	7	8	3	70
Foreign Retrap		1		1	1		3	1	5	8	6		2		28

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>F.R.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>F.R.</u>
Am. Woodcock	1		Wilson's Warbler	1	
B.B. Cuckoo	1		R.W. Blackbird	4	
Screech Owl	1		Northern Oriole	1	
Blue Jay	2		C. Grackle	6	
B.C. Chickadee	2		B.H. Cowbird	1	



Volume 46, Number 3 -"Birdbanding" (con't.)

W.B. Nuthatch	1		Evening Grosbeak	32	17
Gray Catbird	1		Purple Finch		2
Starling	4		Am. Goldfinch	2	1
Yellow Warbler	1		Tree Sparrow	4	4
Y.R. Warbler	2	1	W.T. Sparrow	2	2
			Song Sparrow	1	1
			Total	70	28

Injuries, Deformities and Variation Noted on Birds Captured:

1480-10685 D.E. Junco 04-06-79 Inside toe, right foot missing  
 1480-10875 D.E. Junco 04-21-79 White eye ring, white spots on face

Birds observed at the Refuge:

One new species was observed this year. On 26 November 1979 a Varied Thrush was seen feeding on our lawn. Buffalo Ornithological Society records show one seen 3 May 1979 in West Seneca, New York. This is the only other report of a Varied Thrush for western New York that I could find.

Year	Species	New Species	Total	Year	Species	New Species	Total
1959	72	72	72	1970	132	4	177
1960	100	38	110	1971	130	3	180
1961	101	18	128	1972	129	-	180
1962	112	15	143	1973	127	-	180
1963	106	5	148	1974	129	1	181
1964	109	5	153	1975	125	3	184
1965	115	4	157	1976	123	1	185
1966	122	6	163	1977	122	1	186
1967	125	3	166	1978	121	2	188
1968	121	4	170	1979	119	1	189
1969	128	3	173				

Note: A summary of the fourteen years of banding at the refuge will appear in the next issue.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

B.O.S. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: February 27, 1980

Mike Zebehazy was confirmed as Vice President by the Council. Mike will also be the new editor of The Prothonotary.

Volume 46, Number 6 - "Meeting Highlights" (con't.)

Dr. Robert Andrle was given the go ahead to schedule a film on the Philippine Monkey-eating Eagle for September.

Dr. Andrle stated that maps for the Breeding Bird Atlas Project would be ready by March 15.

Bob Brock, Marie Wendling and Ed Williams presented a program on where to find birds in B.O.S. Sections 6, 9, and 12.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - March 12, 1980

Bob Brock distributed a questionnaire to members designed to gather information for future programs.

William Vaughn reported that the dinner scheduled for April 26 will have to be postponed until the Fall. Art Partridge moved that the dinner be held on November 8, Harriette Klabunde seconded the motion and it was passed by the members.

A motion to increase the typist's pay to \$2.00 per page was passed.

Art Partridge offered his extensive library for use.

Dr. Andrle presented a program on the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Many volunteers will be needed. Those wishing to participate should contact Dr. Andrle the Regional Coordinator, at the Museum of Science, or Mike Zebehazy, the Club Representative (668-0361).

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - March 26, 1980

The B.O.S. Research Committee will not be directly involved in the Great Blue Heron Research Project this year, but individual assistance is appreciated. Reporting forms are available. Contact Fran Rew or Mike Zebehazy.

President Brad Lown gave the first reading of a proposed change in Article VII of the Constitution. Before the change can be adopted, it must be read and approved at two consecutive meetings.

The membership was asked, by William Vaughn, to approve an amendment to the Constitution of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs to read: "Members at large shall be appointed annually by the President." Approval was given.

Bill Bogacki, Bob Klips, Bob Brock and Walter Klabunde presented a symposium on hawk identification.



Volume 46, Number 3 - "Program" (con't.)

PROGRAM: ANNUAL PICNIC MEETING

June 11: Picnic meeting at Old Fort Erie, Fort Erie, Ontario. Bring your picnic supper. There will be a report on the May Count.

PROGRAM: FIELD TRIPS

June 15: Hunter's Creek Park for breeding birds. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Citibank in the Transitown Plaza, Main Street and Transit Road, or join us at the Centerline Road entrance to the park.

This trip will involve some walking. We should find some nesting Hooded Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers and who knows what else. Leader: Ed Fessler (691-8553).

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr Joseph Thill  
36 Allegany Avenue  
Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

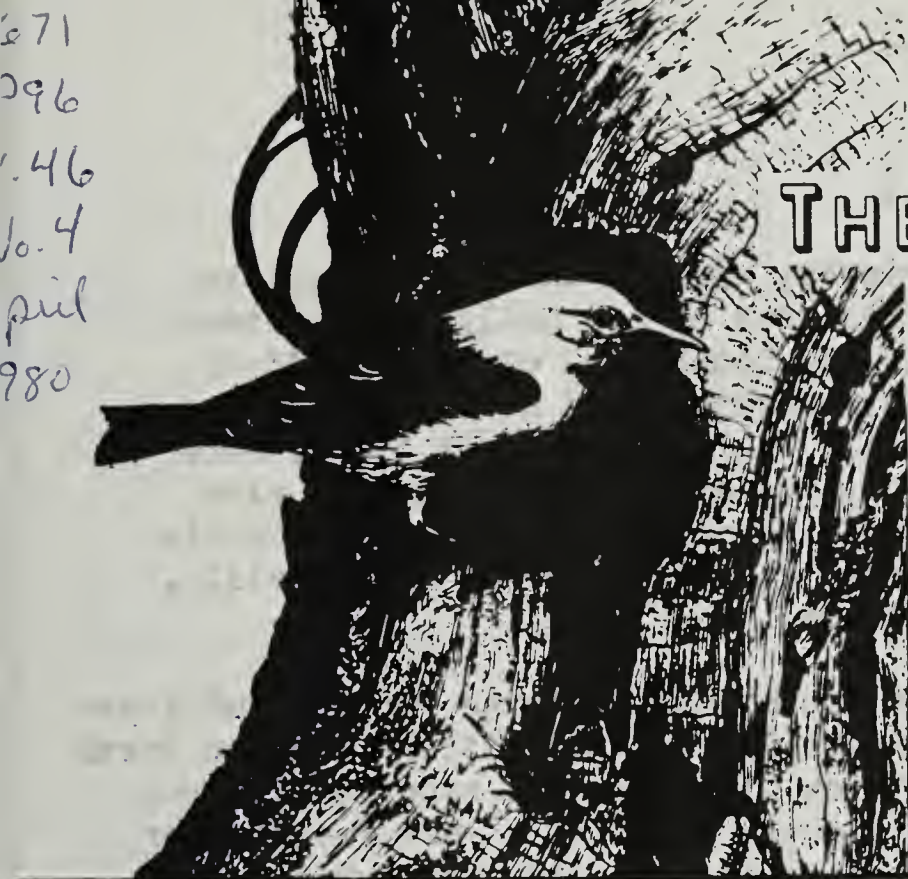
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y.  
14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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APRIL 1980

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NUMBER 4

JUL 16 1980

## THE MONTH

March was a wet month with only four days free of some form of precipitation. Following the severe cold weather of the first two days of the month (with low temperatures of  $-2^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $-5^{\circ}\text{F}$  respectively), daily temperatures were average. Precipitation measured 4.05 inches, 1.20 inches above normal and snow depth at Buffalo measured 13.9 inches, accumulating mainly in heavy falls on March 13th and March 21st. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo Airport.)

With the passing of the cold weather a warming trend through mid-month brought the first spring migrants. On March 4th, a flock of robins, a Common Flicker and a Song Sparrow in full song, all presumed to be migrating birds, were seen in Williamsville. Male Redwing Blackbirds were evident in all parts of our study area by the 8th while the first Canada Geese of the season, a flock of 25 birds, were reported from a field in the town of Newstead on March 7th. For the rest of the month, mixed flocks of Redwings, grackles, cowbirds and robins were reported almost daily. During the very warm days of March 20th and the morning of March 21st, the flocks of migrating Redwings and other icterids increased in numbers to thousands of birds. Elizabeth Brooks reported the first major influx of juncos and Song Sparrows from Alfred on March 21st. Still with us at mid-month were two Snowy Owls, including the celebrated bird on Whitehaven Road on Grand Island. The two male Barrow's Goldeneyes, one at Niagara Falls, Ontario and one at Celoron on Chautauqua Lake, also remained most of the month. Art Schafner set a local record of sorts by traveling almost one hundred miles to record both birds on March 8th!

The first migrating raptors of the season were reported on March 14th when Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and at Elma. On March 16th, over 140 hawks passed over the lookout at Beamer Conservation Area at Grimsby, Ontario just north of the B.O.S. study area



boundary. Walter Kläbunde, our man in Grimsby, advised that 2,722 raptors were tallied in March at the Beamer Point lookout manned daily by volunteers from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and local bird clubs. 1,743 of these birds were Red-tailed Hawks with 590 Red-shouldered Hawks and ten Turkey Vultures among the others. Three Bald Eagles, all adult birds, were reported flying over this locality in March. An adult Bald Eagle was also seen at the Allegany Reservoir in Cattarugus County. Alice and Bill McKale reported an adult Goshawk haunting the feeder at their home in Eggertsville, apparently preying on the birds visiting there.

Other interesting records for the month include three Purple Sandpipers seen at the trout rearing pond at the Springville Field and Stream Club on North Buffalo Street in the Town of Concord on March 4th. Unusual reports of three Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Pileated Woodpecker visiting a suet feeder near Strykersville were received in March. Three other Pileated Woodpeckers were reported visiting suet feeders in the Zoar Valley.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year

F - Indicates first record for the migration

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Pied-billed Grebe	March	8	1 Celoron	Schaffner
	"	9	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
	"	23F	18 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
	"	27	1 Iroquois NWR	Olean
*Horned Grebe	"	23F	3 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Great Blue Heron	"	16F	1 Amity	Pitzrick
	"	26	1 Friendship	Burtons
	"	28	2 Iroquois NWR	McKales
	"	31	12 Cuba	Burtons
Whistling Swan	"5F, 16, 20	26, 166, 500	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	10	75 Iroquois NWR	Morse
	"	23	215 Clarence Sinks	McKales
	"	24	46 Amity	Pitzrick
	"	26	122 Newstead Sinks	Schaffner
	"	26	75 Clarence Sinks	Schaffner
(first & maximum counts for migration)				

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Canada Goose	March	8F 70	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner
	"	9 100	Alfred	Brooks
	"	10 75	Limestone	VanScoys
	"	11 3000	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	19 34000	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	"	26 5000	Clarence Sinks	Schaffner
	"	27 36000	Iroquois NWR	Morse
		(first & maximum counts for migration)		
Snow Goose (white morph)	"	26 1	Newstead Sinks	Schaffner
	"	27 3	Iroquois NWR	Morse, et al
	"	30 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Andrle, et al
	"	30 1	Oakfield	Andrle, et al
Snow Goose (blue morph)	"	27 2	Iroquois NWR	Morse, et al
Gadwall	"	16F, 20 2, 3	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	17 1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Pintail	"	8F 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner
	"	8F 1	Celoron	Schaffner
	"	11 16	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
*Northern Shoveler	"	23F 2	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Seamans
	"	29 2	Clarence Sinks	Rews
Wood Duck	"	17F 6	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	29 3	Clarence Sinks	Rew
Green-w. Teal	"	26F 2	Newstead	Schaffner
Redhead	"	5F, 16 12, 56	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	15 29	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	23 1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Ring-necked Duck	"	8F 4	Celoron	Schaffner
	"	9, 16 10, 40	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	19 1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Bufflehead	"	16F 5	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	24 1	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Carrol
Oldsquaw	"	16F 2	Celoron	Elderkin
Lesser Scaup	"	15F 2	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Schaffner
	"	20 2	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Common Goldeneye	"	8F 260	Celoron	Elderkin
	"	20 2	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	"	1 1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, Foster
	"	8, 15 1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	8 1	Celoron	Schaffner
White-w. Scoter	"	15 7	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Schaffner
Ruddy Duck	"	28F 1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Hooded Merganser	"	17F 2	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	25, 31 2, 2	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	26 2	Oak Orchard WMA	Schaffner
	"	30 3	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, et al
Common Merganser	"	8F 500	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner
	"	8F 20	Celoron	Schaffner
	"	20 2	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Red-br. Merganser	"	23 3500	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
*Turkey Vulture	"	16F 1	Ripley	Freeland
	"	17 1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen



Volume 46, Number 4 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

*Goshawk	March	8	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	11F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	19	1	Limestone	Van Scoys
	"	27	1	Wales	Rosche
Cooper's Hawk	"	27	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Andrle, et al
	"	30	1	Cayuga Twp., Ont.	Duncan
Red-should. Hawk	"	14F-24	1-2	Elma	Forsberg
	"	14F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	16	1	Alfred	Brooks
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	9	1	Ellicottville	Chapples
	"	9	1	Orchard Park	Chapples
	"	14	1	Town of Hanover	Freeland
	"	16	1	Westfield	Freeland
*Bald Eagle (all imm.)	"	20	3	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Olsen
	"	24	3	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Carrol
	"	26	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Schaffner
	"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, et al
Marsh Hawk	"	22F	1	Wales	Rosche
	"	23, 28	2, 3	Newstead	McKales
American Coot	"	19F	5	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
Killdeer	"	10F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	16	4	Newstead	McKales
	"	16	2	Alfred	Brooks
*Amer. Woodcock	"	19F-31	1-7	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
*Common Snipe	"	17F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	23	1	Arkwright	Rew
*Greater Yellowlegs	"	31F	1	Riverside	Elderkin
*Lesser Yellowlegs	"	31F	1	Riverside	Elderkin
Glaucous Gull	"	8	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	"	15	1	Niagara Falls	Schaffner
	"	27	3	LaSalle Pk., Bflo	Andrle, Foster
	"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	"	29	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
Snowy Owl	"	17	1	Grand Island	Barbers
Saw-whet Owl	"	14	1	Town of Sheridan	Freeland
*Yellow-b. Sapsucker	"	19F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Common Flicker	"	19F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	13, 23, 24	1, 1, 1	Middleport	Krogs
	"	23-29	1	Amity (f)	Pitzrick
*Tree Swallow	"	20F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	"	21	2	Cayuga Twp., Ont.	Duncan
	"	26	2	Tonawanda GMA	Schaffner
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	1-2	Elma	Forsberg
	"	1-31	1-3	Limestone	Van Scoys
	"	20	1	Town of Evans	Schaffner
*Carolina Wren	"	1-31	1	Medina	Schroder
American Robin	"	9F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	"	13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Somerville
	"	20	56	Pinehurst	Schaffner

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Eastern Bluebird	March-11F-31	1-4	Amity	Pitzricks
"	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	23	1	Belmont	Burtens
"	27,28	2,1	Limestone	Van Scoys
"	30	1	Orangeville	Hulls
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	1	Grand Island	Barbers
			(B.O.S. Sanctuary)	
"	2	4	Wales	Rosche
"	16	2	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Shrike	"	8,9	1,1 Allenberg Bog	Chapples
Yellow-r. Warbler	"	8	27 Town of Pomfret	Rew
"	31	1	Alfred	Brooks
E. Meadowlark	"	9	10 Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle, et al
"	20	1	Pinehurse	Schaffner
Red-w. Blackbird	"	7F	100 Amity	Pitzricks
"	10,12	200,200	Scio	Burtens
"	14	1000	Amity	Pitzricks
"	14	100	Wales	Rosche
"	15	100	Alfred	Brooks
"	20	517	Pinehurst	Schaffner
Rusty Blackbird	"	9F	2 Kent Switch	Rew
"	22	8	Wales	Rosche
Common Grackle	"	10F,12	6,100 Scio	Burtens
"	12	1	Buffalo	Schaffner
"	12	3	Holland	Becker
"	20	388	Pinehurst	Schaffner
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-31	50 Holland (f)	Becker
"	8F,11,21	10,30,40	Wales	Rosche
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-31	12-40 Belmont	Burtens
"	1-31	30-45	Limestone	Van Scoys
"	1-31	40	Holland (f)	Becker
"	1-31	1-70	Amity	Pitzricks
"	1-31	1-30	Alfred	Brooks
"	7	60	Frewsburg	Elderkin
"	8,22,26	80,200,80	Wales	Rosche
House Finch	"	1-31	1-4 Jamestown (f)	Elderkin
"	1-31	2-10	Eggertsville	Hulls
"	1-31	12-30	Eggertsville	McKales
"	1-31	2-6	Belmont	Burtens
"	2,16,30	3,17,50	Scio (f)	Pitzricks
"	2,9,23	28,1,2	Scio (f)	Pitzricks
			(Two different sites)	
"	6-31	1-4	Buffalo	Schaffner
"	10,28	1,1	Buffalo	Schaffner
			(two different sites)	
"	8	1	Castile	Barbers
"	18	1	Depew	Barbers
"	24,27	1,1	Holland	Becker
"	30	2	Alfred	Brooks



Volume 46, Number 4 "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Rufous-s. Towhee	March 22F,23	1,1	Medina	Schroder
Chipping Sparrow	" 1-31	1	Belmont (f)	Burtons
Field Sparrow	" 8	3	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	" 20	1	Middleport	Krogs
*Fox Sparrow	" 22F-31	1	Holland (f)	Becker
White-thr. Sparrow	" 3-25	1-3	Amity	Pitzricks
	" 8,29	15,5	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Schaffner
	" 24	1	Belmont	Burtons
White-cr. Sparrow	" 1-8,29	1,1	Middleport	Krogs
Song Sparrow	" 10F-31	1-8	Amity	Pitzricks
	" 11,14	1,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Snow Bunting	" 12L	80	Riverside	Elderkin

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....110

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue..... 13

Total for year.....123

A SUMMARY OF FOURTEEN YEARS OF BIRDBANDING AT FARMSVILLE STATION

Species:	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
Wood Duck	18	3											4	5	30
G. Heron										1				1	2
S.S. Hawk		1							1			1			3
Cooper's Hawk												1			1
R.T. Hawk									1	1	1	1			4
B.W. Hawk						1									1
Kestrel		1					1					1			3
Am. Woodcock	2	2	3	6		1									14
Spotted Sandpiper			2	1	1	2	1								7
Mourning Dove								1					1	1	3
Y.B. Cuckoo			1											1	2
B.B. Cuckoo		5	2	4	2	1		8	2		2		2	1	29
Screech Owl		1		1	1		1	1							5
Barred Owl											1				1
Saw-whet Owl				1	1								1		3
G.H. Owl								1							1
Chimney Swift						1									1
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	1			1		3	1					1	12
Common Flicker	1	4	5	3	5	7		3	4	5			1	3	41
Pileated Woodpecker											1				1

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Birdbanding Summary" (con't)

Species:	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
R.H. Woodpecker								1							1
Y.B. Sapsucker		2	2	6	2	3	4			4					23
Hairy Woodpecker	9	18	12	12	18	20	8	10	6	4	2	1	2	3	125
Downy Woodpecker	24	25	28	32	51	42	33	18	17	10	9	2	3	3	297
Eastern Kingbird	1	2			1	1		1							6
G.C. Glycatcher		3	2	1	2	3		1	1	2			3		18
Eastern Phoebe	10	10	13	14	12	7	6	24	12	4	5		4	2	123
Traill's Flycatcher	3	4	14	7	3	1	2	1			2	2	2	2	43
Y.B. Flycatcher		1			1	5	1	1	5	3	1	2			20
Least Flycatcher		8	17	7	2	8	6	6	4	3	3	1	3	5	73
Unidentified Emp.		2													2
E. Wood Pewee		6		4	2	2	1	2	1	5			2	1	26
O.S. Flycatcher		1				1	1							1	4
Tree Swallow		12	27	55	42	31	80	2	4	1	2	3	1	3	263
Bank Swallow			6	13			2								21
R.W. Swallow			9	30	13	2	6								60
Barn Swallow	4		41	31	7		27	1							111
Cliff Swallow				2											2
Blue Jay	17	44	51	74	41	64	116	30	110	67	86	27	80	74	881
C.C. Chickadee	49	58	79	107	93	89	44	42	64	105	108	119	95	76	1128
Boreal Chickadee										1					1
Tufted Titmouse					3	2	2	1		1					9
W.B. Nuthatch	9	5	10	23	14	11	12	5	4	7	4	4	1	6	115
R.B. Nuthatch				1	2					1					4
Brown Creeper	1	4	2	3	5	6	4	4	7	3	2	2		1	44
House Wren	7	52	22	13	6	6	4	3	7	4	7	2	1	4	138
Winter Wren		1		1					2						4
Gray Catbird	37	53	65	69	52	54	30	45	48	38	27	19	24	33	594
Brown Thrasher	5	6	6	3	5	9	3	5	3	1	2	1			49
Am. Robin	33	71	35	38	27	52	22	67	12	15	14	3	5	20	414
Wood Thrush	2	10	4	4	5	11	3	7	1	2	2		1	3	55
Hermit Thrush		9	5	4	1	20	7	28	5	18	6	1	2	13	119
Swainson's Thrush	1	3	2	5	4	27	2	32	14	22	11	4	8	13	148
G.C. Thrush	2	1	2	2	3	4	1	12		3	2	2		2	36
Veery	5	20	22	5	7	8	5	13	3	9	3	3	6	5	114
Eastern Bluebird		1	3	2		3	1								10
G.C. Kinglet	3	4	12	4	2	10	2	6	4	3	6		2		58
R.C. Kinglet	1	37	50	39	15	14	20	10	12	31	29	4	1	2	265
Cedar Waxwing	3	5	19	26	1	6		15	2						77
Northern Shrike					1	2		1	4	1	1	2			13
Starling	4	51	24	16	22	17	14	8	62	27	10	2		1	258



Volume 46, Number 4 - "Birdbanding Summary" (con't.)

Species:	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
Y.T. Vireo					1				1						1
Solitary Vireo					1	1	2	2		4	1			2	13
R.E. Vireo	2	3	7	9	2	40	5	30	21	11	13	1	3	6	153
Philadelphia Vireo		1		2	1	7	1	5	8	7	1	2	5		40
Warbling Vireo		1	1		1	1		3		1					8
B & W Warbler					1	2				1	1				5
Prothonotary Warbler					1									1	2
Gold-winged Warbler			1												1
Blue-winged Warbler		8	11	7	3	4	1	8	4	4	3		1		54
Brewster's Warbler					1										1
Tennessee Warbler	1	2	6	7	14	32	12	34	8	91	42	15	13	13	290
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	1	1	2				1	1						8
Nashville Warbler	6	3	18	6	9	9	4	14	5	26	25	1	3	5	134
Northern Parula			1			2	1	2							6
Yellow Warbler	3	19	22	32	15	10	16	16	12	10	2	5	7		169
Magnolia Warbler	2	16	10	20	17	14	11	24	36	47	21	13	5	9	245
Cape May Warbler		1		2	3		9	2	3		1		1	2	24
Black-throated Blue					1		1	3	2	1				1	9
Y.B. Warbler	4	40	150	50	211	66	354	36	32	68	18	42	51	7	1129
Black-throated Green			5	10	6	8	7	11	2	30	4	2	1	4	90
Blackburnian Warbler								1	3	6					10
C.S. Warbler	4	10	11	3	6	5	3	5	7	12	3	1	4	5	79
Bay-breasted Warbler				1		8	3	8	7	14	1	1	3	3	49
Blackpoll Warbler			10	29	15	7	2	4	6	5		1	1		
Pine Warbler										1					
Palm Warbler	1	1	6	1	1	2	4		4	2	6	1	1		30
Ovenbird			1		1	3	3	5	1	6	4	1		4	29
No. Waterthrush	1	4	8	4	4	8	9	2	6	7	9	6	1	9	78
Connecticut Warbler						1									1
Mourning Warbler		4	3	6	3	3	1				4			3	27
C. Yellowthroat	8	20	23	26	12	9	2	10	25	14	20	4	7	7	187
Y.B. Chat			1							1					1
Hooded Warbler					1		1								1
Wilson's Warbler	2	16	20	25	15	1	2	4	9	8	3		1		106
Canada Warbler	1	4	8	13	2	1	4	3	3	10	5		4	5	63
Am. Redstart		6	18	20	4	5	4	6	3	5	2	1	1	1	76
House Sparrow		5									4				
R.W. Blackbird	17	56	66	28	11	27	38	41	39	14	31	17	2	7	394
Northern Oriole	2	16	15	12	5	3	4	7	4	5	3				76
Rusty Blackbird	1	2	6	4	1	13	2	14	10	12					65

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Birdbanding Summary" (con't.)

Species:	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
C. Grackle	31	68	29	32	14	36	46	44	41	16	38	11		5	411
B.H. Cowbird		11	10	3		28	63	62	29	21	28	37	2	9	303
Scarlet Tanager		1	2		2	2		3	10	9	1	1	3	1	35
Cardinal		1	1	3		5	4	5	7	4	6	4	4	4	48
R.B. Grosbeak	5	8	12	8	12	34	16	29	14	33	19	19	7	16	232
Indigo Bunting		2		3	1	2	3	1	3	4	2		3	1	25
Evening Grosbeak			7	9	2	4	51	247	363	643	562	174	37	132	2231
Purple Finch	1		4	4	6	12	4	14	83	37	4	80	95	30	374
C. Redpoll				1						1	1		43		46
Pine Siskin					1		19		29	8	24		26		107
House Finch														1	1
Am. Goldfinch	3	21	10	18	14	22	24	36	91	69	48	51	22	29	458
R.S. Towhee		4	8	5	9	5	3	5	2	4	1	3	1	1	51
Savannah Sparrow	1				1	1		1	1	3		2			10
Vesper Sparrow	3	1				1				1					6
Dark-eyed Junco	40	31	60	118	99	196	165	269	188	212	295	356	161	198	2388
Tree Sparrow	60	147	198	205	197	397	407	296	528	444	469	255	279	163	4045
Chipping Sparrow		6	4	6	14	13	24	30	18	8	55	28	7	3	216
Field Sparrow	53	33	74	48	73	55	26	31	31	27	11	12	7	7	488
W.C. Sparrow	2	5	20	12	6	6	17	8	2	8	8	11	1	2	108
W.T. Sparrow	3	76	45	91	138	130	99	139	118	107	111	146	48	43	1194
Fox Sparrow		1	8	2	14	10	5	5	1		2	6	4	6	54
Lincoln's Sparrow		16	17	8	4	3	12	3	1	4		1	3	1	73
Swamp Sparrow	4	9	10	7	7	27	10	16	14	13	8	8	7	8	1599
Song Sparrow	75	101	106	120	180	200	98	121	180	121	71	71	93	62	

Total Number of Birds

588 1652 1530 2074 2439 2340 1224 24314

1332 1690 2036 2085 2622 1600 1102

Number of Species 54 82 80 83 90 90 82 86 80 84 74 62 67 69 125

Species	Rep.	Ret.	Rec.	F.R.	Species	Rep.	Ret.	Rec.	F.R.
Wood Duck	6				Barn Swallow	3			
Am. Woodcock			1		Blue Jay	162	125		
B.B. Cuckoo	2		1		B.C. Chickadee	634	344		
Screech Owl			1		Tufted Titmouse	2			
Common Flicker	1	6			W.B. Nuthatch	67	36	1	
Y.B. Sapsucker	2				Brown Creeper	7	6		
Hairy Woodpecker	66	46			House Wren	30	12		
Downy Woodpecker	181	99			Gray Catbird	59	37	1	
Eastern Phoebe	4	1			Brown Thrasher	1			
Tree Swallow	18	8			Am. Robin	24	23		
R.W. Swallow	5	2			Wood Thrush	4	1		



Volume 46, Number 4 - "Birdbanding Summary" (con't.)

Species	Rep.	Ret.	Rec.	F.R.	Species	Rep.	Ret.	Rec.	F.R.
Hermit Thrush	3				Canada Warbler	3			
Swainson's Thrush	6				Am. Redstart	3			
G.C. Thrush	4				House Sparrow	1			
Veery	13	17			R.W. Blackbird	26	56	4	
Eastern Bluebird	2				Northern Oriole	10	11	1	
R.C. Kinglet	6				Rusty Blackbird		1		
Northern Shrike	3	1			C. Grackle	31	23	6	
Starling	9	9	4		B.H. Cowbird	45	33	1	
R.E. Vireo	8	2			Scarlet Tanager		1		
Philadelphia Vireo	2				Cardinal	16	7		
Prothonotary Warbler	1				R.B. Grosbeak	8	10		
Blue-winged Warbler	2	4			Evening Grosbeak	164	21	32	17
Tennessee Warbler	10				Purple Finch	82	10		2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				Am. Goldfinch	78	19	2	1
Nashville Warbler	1				R.S. Towhee	6	5		
Yellow Warbler	10	6	1		Dark-eyed Junco	880	35		
Magnolia Warbler	13				Tree Sparrow	1957	353	4	4
Y.R. Warbler	22		2	1	Chipping Sparrow	51	8		
Black-throated Green	2				Field Sparrow	37	11		
C.S. Warbler	5	1			W.C. Sparrow	40			
Bay-breasted Warbler	2				W.T. Sparrow	274	4	2	2
Blackpoll Warbler	7				Fox Sparrow	10			
Palm Warbler	1				Lincoln's Sparrow	7			
Ovenbird	2				Swamp Sparrow	13	2		
No. Waterthrush	3				Song Sparrow	315	64	1	1
Mourning Warbler	2				C. Redpoll	29			
C. Yellowthroat	11	3			Pine Siskin	37			
Wilson's Warbler	9		1						
Totals	Repeats	Returns	Recoveries	Foreign Retraps					
	5561	1464	70	28					

Banding Returns To Date:

Species	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
Am. Woodcock		1													1
N. Flicker		1	1	2		1	1		1						7
Hairy Woodpecker	2	8	8	13	11	14	10	6	3	4	6	2	1	1	89
Downy Woodpecker	2	19	18	29	27	27	29	27	5	3	6				192
E. Phoebe											1				1
Tree Swallow			1	1	1	1	2	1			1				8
R.W. Swallow				1			1								2
Blue Jay		5	7	7	9	8	15	10	25	25	26	13	2	12	164
B.C. Chickadee	7	39	35	57	50	66	48	35	35	40	39	19	36	74	580
Tufted Titmouse						2	2	2							6

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Banding Returns" (con't.)

Species	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
W.B. Nuthatch	1	5	3	6	6	5	11	5	5	2	3	1	2		55
Brown Creeper		1	2	1		2	1	2							9
House Wren		1	2	6	6		1	1			1		1		18
Gray Catbird		7	8	6	8	4	6	4	1	6	4	2			57
Am. Robin		2	5	4	1	2	1	4	1	2	1	1			24
Wood Thrush						1	1								2
Veery			5	4	3	1			1		2	1	2	2	21
Starling			2		1			1	4	1					9
N. Shrike													1		1
R.E. Vireo						1				1					2
B.W. Warbler			1	2				1		1					5
Yellow Warbler			1	3	4										8
C.S. Warbler		1													1
C. Yellowthroat		1								1					2
Am. Redstart			1												1
R.W. Blackbird		3	10	5	6	7	11	15	2		9	1			60
Northern Oriole			1	4	3	1	1		2	3	1	1	1		18
Rusty Blackbird				1											1
C. Grackle		2	2		1	1	4	2	2	1	8	2	1	1	27
B.H. Cowbird				3		1	5	13	11	4	3	3			43
Scarlet Tanager							1								1
Cardinal							1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	12
R.B. Grosbeak		1	1	1	1							2	3	4	13
Evening Grosbeak									2	7	1.5		8	1	24
Purple Finch								1							11
Am. Goldfinch									11	4	9				24
R.S. Towhee				2	1	1		1	1						6
D.E. Junco				1		2	3	1	6	3	4	2	5	10	37
Tree Sparrow		15	24	35	17	54	43	47	99	69	61	20	28	8	520
Chipping Sparrow						1	1				2	3	2		9
Field Sparrow		6	4	2		1			1						14
W.T. Sparrow										1		3			4
Swamp Sparrow			1								1				2
Song Sparrow		9	14	13	12	10	5	4	5	4	2	1	3	6	89
Total	12	127	157	209	168	214	204	184	225	184	207	79	97	122	2189

Distribution of Banding Totals by Families:

Both spring and fall migration were slow with few flocks of birds seen in the area. In addition, the winter sparrows and finches were low in number. This year I banded the fewest number of birds in fourteen years of banding. Black-birds, thrushes and mimie thrushes were caught in better numbers than last year,



Volume 46, Number 4 - "Distribution" (con't.)

while warblers and sparrows declined in numbers. Wild fruits and mast were plentiful in the fall and the snowfall was the least in years. Therefore, birds did not come to the feeders as usual. Chickadees and Blue Jays remain abundant but Evening Grosbeaks were less common than usual.

Family	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Sparrows	42.5	35.2	35.4	39.5	43.6	55.5	47.5	60.3	68.6	66.8	72.7	76.7	69.4	64.1
Warblers	5.6	11.6	20.2	15.6	22.7	9.8	21.8	9.5	7.3	14.0	7.4	5.9	8.6	7.2
Blackbirds	8.7	11.4	7.6	4.7	2.0	5.2	7.4	8.1	5.0	2.5	4.2	4.0	.3	1.9
Chickadees	8.4	4.3	4.8	6.3	6.1	4.3	2.1	2.0	2.6	4.0	4.6	7.0	7.6	6.9
Thrushes	7.3	8.6	4.4	3.5	3.1	6.1	2.0	7.6	1.4	2.6	1.6	.8	1.8	5.1
Jays	2.8	3.3	3.1	4.4	2.7	3.1	5.5	1.4	4.5	2.5	3.6	1.7	6.5	6.7
Mimic Thrush	7.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.1	1.6	2.4	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.2	2.0	3.0
Woodpeckers	5.8	3.7	2.9	3.1	5.0	3.5	2.2	1.5	1.1	.9	.5	.2	.5	.8
Swallows	.7	.9	5.0	7.8	4.1	1.6	5.5	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.3
Kinglets	.7	3.1	3.7	2.6	1.1	1.2	1.1	.8	.7	1.3	1.5	.3	.2	.2
Flycatchers	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.0	1.5	1.3	.8	1.7	.9	.6	.5	.3	1.1	1.0
Starlings	.7	3.8	1.5	1.0	1.4	.8	.7	.4	2.5	1.0	.4	.2	-	.1
Vireos	.4	.4	.5	.7	.4	2.4	.4	1.9	1.2	.9	.6	.2	.7	.7
Wrens	1.2	4.1	1.3	.8	.4	.3	.2	.1	.4	.2	.3	.2	.1	.4
Nuthatches	1.5	.4	.6	1.4	1.0	.5	.6	.2	.2	.3	.2	.3	.1	.5
Waxwings	.3	.4	1.1	1.5	.1	.3	-	.7	.1	-	-	-	-	-
Creepers	.3	.3	.1	.2	.4	.3	.2	.2	.3	.1	.1	.2	-	.1
Tanagers	-	.1	.1	-	.1	.1	-	.3	.4	.3	.1	.1	.2	.1
Cuckoos	-	.4	.2	.2	.1	.1	-	.3	.1	-	.1	-	.2	.2
Ducks	3.1	.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.3	.4
Sandpipers	.3	.2	.3	.4	.1	.1	.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shrikes	-	-	-	-	.1	.1	-	.1	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	-
Hawks	-	.1	-	-	-	-	.1	-	.1	.1	.1	.3	-	-
Kingfishers	.2	.3	.1	-	-	.1	-	.1	.1	-	-	-	-	.1
Owls	-	.1	-	.1	.1	-	.1	.1	-	-	.1	-	.1	-
Titmice	-	-	-	-	.2	.1	.1	-	-	.1	-	-	-	-
Doves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.1	.1
Hérons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.1	-	-	-	.1
Swifts	-	-	-	-	-	.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
100% off	588	1332	1652	1690	1530	2036	2074	2085	2439	2622	2340	1600	1224	1102

Statistical Breakdown of Banding Operations:

Mist nets were used to capture 28.2% of the birds while 71.6% were caught in traps. .2% were caught in other ways. "Days netted" was low again due to rainy and snowy weather. Both spring and fall migrations were poor.

Volume 46, Number 4 - "Statistical Banding" (con't.)

Year	Birds Caught					Ave.	Days	Hours	Birds
	Net	Trap	Nestling	Other	Total	Nets	Netted	Netted	100/Net Hr.
1966	616	136	22	6	780	3.0	71		
1967	1685	327	83		2095	3.0	127		
1968	2345	128			2473	5.3	143	7119	33
1969	2576	296			2872	4.8	141	6223	41
1970	2247	192	35	1	2475	4.5	123	5133	44
1971	3026	274			3300	5.0	125	6049	50
1972	2668	715		5	3388	3.5	119	3291	81
1973	3557	1616		3	5173	4.2	133	5364	66
1974	1535	4388		5	5928	4.2	118	3681	42
1975	1694	4057		11	5762	5.0	107	4323	39
1976	1653	3152		5	4810	3.6	122	2681	62
1977	739	2246		9	2994	3.9	80	1298	57
1978	716	1817		6	2539	4.8	82	1385	52
1979	617	1566		5	2188	5.9	79	2141	29
Total	25674	20910	140	56	46780		1570	48688	53

Year	Days		New Birds		Foreign		
	Banded	Banded	Returns	Repeats	Retraps	Recoveries	Species
1966	71	588	12	180	-	-	54
1967	130	1332	127	635	1	3	82
1968	143	1652	157	664	-	5	80
1969	143	1690	209	972	1	2	83
1970	128	1530	168	776	1	4	90
1971	138	2036	214	1050	-	5	90
1972	119	2074	204	1108	3	3	82
1973	208	2085	184	2905	1	3	86
1974	257	2439	225	3259	5	5	80
1975	259	2622	184	2948	8	7	84
1976	251	2340	207	2257	6	15	74
1977	211	1600	79	1315	-	7	62
1978	191	1224	97	1214	2	8	67
1979	199	1102	122	966	-	3	69
Total	2448	24314	2189	20249	28	70	125



Nesting Records for the Refuge:

All nests were located on our 46 acre refuge. No special effort was made to locate nests. Nest boxes were checked twice during the breeding season. The pinioned goose again nested right outside our living room window, laid four eggs and eventually raised one goaling.

A ten box bluebird nest line was put up on my neighbors (Elwyn Holmes) property in April, 1979. The boxes were placed along the fenceline between his pasture and an alfalfa field. There were five successful Tree Swallow nests and one Bluebird nest. Three Bluebird nestlings were successfully fledged.

Species	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	Total
G. Heron										2	1		1		4
Mallard										1					1
Wood Duck	1			4	5	3	2	3	1	1	1		1	1	23
Hooded Merganser									1	1	1	3	1	1	8
E.T. Hawk											1				1
G. . Owl													1		1
Ruffed Grouse			1					1							2
Am. Woodcock				1											1
Y.S. Flicker	1														1
Y.B. Sapsucker	1		1												2
Hairy Woodpecker		r	1	1											2
E. Kingbird	1	e	1												2
E. Phoebe		c								2	3		1	1	7
Tree Swallow	1	o	8	11	17	20	21	8	10	11	16	12	7	7	149
Blue Jan		r	1			2	1	2		1	1	1	1	1	11
B.C. Chickadee	1	s	2										1		4
Brown Creeper			1												1
House Wren		l	6		1	2	4	2	1	2			3	3	24
Gray Catbird	3	o	3		2	1	2	1							12
Starling		s									3				3
Am. Robin	8	t	26	8	4	6	10	3	2	3	9	3	1	1	84
E. Bluebird			1	2		2									5
R.E. Vireo											1				1
Yellow Warbler	2						1								3
Am. Redstart	1														1
House Sparrow			4	1											5
R.W. Blackbird	3		1	3	1	5	4			1	2				20
Northern Oriole			1	2	1			1	1	1					7
C. Grackle	2		4	3	2	1	1	2		1	3	1			20
R.B. Grosbeak			1				1						1		3
Purple Finch	1														1
Chipping	1														1
Field Sparrow	1		1				1								3
Song Sparrow				1	3			1						1	8
Total	28		64	37	36	42	48	24	16	27	44	21	18	16	421

## SUMMARY OF GRIMSBY AREA HAWK WATCH FOR MARCH 1980

by W. Klabunde

The hawk watch at Grimsby is of special interest to the B.O.S. because it is the only concentrated effort to enumerate all hawks flying westward near Lake Ontario. Actually these hawks have gone through B.O.S. territory except for the last mile before being recorded. Those recorded are only the west-bound hawks. Those going east are seen at Braddock Bay where as unknown number are added that did not go through B.O.S. territory.

The accompanying table summarizes the daily counts at Beamer lookout as well as some additional counts made in Grimsby and at Vinemount Banding Station. The latter two are not counted in the monthly total except as noted. This year's March total is 449 above last years total as was anticipated due to the increased coverage: 31 minus 7 days of inclement weather -vs- 16 days minus 4 days of inclement weather last year. In spite of this, three species showed lower totals this March, namely, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Rough-legged Hawk. The latter were expected to be lower because of the mild winter bringing fewer south.

Because of earlier coverage this year, the date of first appearance was earlier for six species, namely, Goshawk (7), Cooper's Hawk (1), Red-tailed (1), Red-shouldered (4), Rough-legged (3), and American Kestrel (6). However Turkey Vultures were 12 days later while Sharp-shinned and Marsh Hawks were 1 and 2 days later respectively.

4923 Creek Road, Lewiston 14092

## SUMMARY OF GRIMSBY AREA MARCH 1980 HAWK WATCH.

DATE	LOOK OUT TV	GO	SS	CH	UA	RT	RS	RL	UB	BE	MH	AK	UH	TOTAL
1	B			1		1								2
2	B					1								1
3	B					3		1						4
4	B					7	1	1						9
5	B			no		coverage		-	fog, rain & snow					0
6	B			1		5						1		7
7	B					12			1					14
8	B			no		coverage		-	snow & rain					0
9	B					9								9
10	B					13								13
11	B					1								1
12	B					101	2		3					106
13	B			no		coverage		-	snow & blustry					0
14	B			mo		coverage		-	snow & blustry					0
15	B			1		17	2	3					1	24
15	V					14		1				1		16
16	B			1	1	122	9	1	1			1	1	137
16	V					81						2		83
17	B			1		3	1	2					1	8



DATE	LOOK OUT	TV	GO	SS	CH	UA	RT	RS	RL	UB	BE	MH	AK	UH	TOTAL
17	G												1		1
18	B			2	1		4	1			1(a)		1		10
19	B	1		1	2		400	20	2	9		2	3		440
19	G						113	9		1			1		124
20	B			2	1		436	146		119		1	7		713
20	G*	1*					203	21					2		227
21	B														0
22	B			no coverage					-	snow					0
22	V						32	2		1			1	5	41
23	B			2	2		166	103		67					340
23	V			1			16	7		15			1		40
24	B						6	9		1					16
25	B	1		1			22	3	2				1		30
26	B	1		6	1		111	57	1	2		1			180
27	B	1	1	5	6		111	62	1	11		2	5	3	208
282	B	2		1	8	1	65	19	2	1	1(a)	2	2		104
28	V	1		2	2		41	2	2	1	1(a)**2		1	2	57
29	B			no coverage					-	rain & fog					0
30	B	3		7	6		196	53		33	1(a)	2	5		306
30	V	2		8	1		99	24	2	2		1	1	2	142
31	B			no coverage					-	rain & fog					

Grimsby

Total 10 2 27 32 2 1743 590 16 249 3 10 27 11 2722  
 1979 Total 13 0 57 17 1524 558 33 1-GE 9 18 43 2273

B=Beamer; V=Vinemount G=Grimsby (below escarpment)

\* Combination of two observers - only TV is counted in cumulative record.

\*\* This eagle was reported as Golden eagle (White head noted at B)

#### MARSH HAWK NESTING DATA REQUESTED

Barbara A. Allen reports that the Endangered Species Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is continuing its statewide nesting survey of the Marsh Hawk in an attempt to clarify its present status. Last year, thanks to your interest and help, information was collected on 38 actively breeding pairs throughout the state. Twenty-five of these were found in upstate areas, and 13 were located on Long Island. Most of these pairs were seen in marshes along the St. Lawrence River and Long Island as in 1978, along with scattered nests in upland areas in western New York. "We hope to conclude our status determination this year, and we are asking your continued assistance in sending us information on nest sites and summer (June through August) sightings of harriers," says Ms. Allen.

Also continuing is the investigation into the breeding status of the Cooper's Hawk. Last year information was gathered on four active nests. Additional data are needed on locations of nest sites (historical or presently

active), reproductive success, and sightings during the nesting season. "We are also beginning to gather similar information on the Red-shouldered Hawk. As always, sightings of eagles and peregrines, and summer sightings of Ospreys, are welcome additions to our data base," she says.

Please forward any information to: Raptor Survey, Endangered Species Unit, Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, NY 12054. Raptor observation forms are available upon request from Ms. Allen at the above address.

ONTARIO NEST RECORD SCHEME

Royal Ontario Museum - Canadian Wildlife Service

The annual report of the ONRS, covering the 1979 breeding season, will not be published this spring. However, the 16th report covering the combined seasons of 1979 and 1980 will hopefully appear, as in the past, in the spring of 1981.

The reason for this delay is due to the work involved in the impending publication of the first volume of the Breeding Birds of Ontario - Nidiology and Distribution.

The above work, summarizing the nest card and all published breeding record data, has been a continuing project of Dr. Ross James and the scheme organizer for a number of years. It will attempt through the use of distributional maps and an exhaustive analysis of such data to provide a summary of breeding habitat, nest position, nest height, nest construction and measurements, nest materials, clutch size and average range, incubation period, egg dates and breeding distribution.

It is anticipated that the work will appear in two volumes, the first, dealing with non-passerines, to appear, hopefully, early in 1981; and the second, covering the passerines, at a later date.

We wish to thank all the contributors who have sent in cards in 1979 and 1980, and to assure them that these contributions will be processed in the next report. We further urge contributors to continue to request needed blank record cards and to continue their valued contributions, as before.

George K. Peck  
Research Associate  
Department of Ornithology  
Royal Ontario Museum

PROGRAM: FIELD TRIPS

July 20, Sunday. Early Shorebirds along the Canadian Shore of Lake Erie.

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Vermont and Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge and 7:15 a.m. at the first parking lot south of the Peace Bridge



Volume 46, Number 4 - "Field Trips" (con't.)

on the Canadian side of the river. Leader Dick Byron (tel. 662-4783)

#### Picnic Meeting

August 2, Saturday 1:00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot of Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center, Welch Road, North Java for a field trip and picnic supper. Bring a dish to pass and your own beverage and place setting. Leader Mary Saville (tel. 662-5215)

August 24th, Sunday. Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for migrating shore birds. Leader Robert Wagner (tel. 633-8109). Meet 7:00 a.m. Vermont and Busti entrance to Peace Bridge at 7:15 a.m. at first parking lot south of the Peace Bridge on the Canadian side of the river.

#### PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Avenue  
Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

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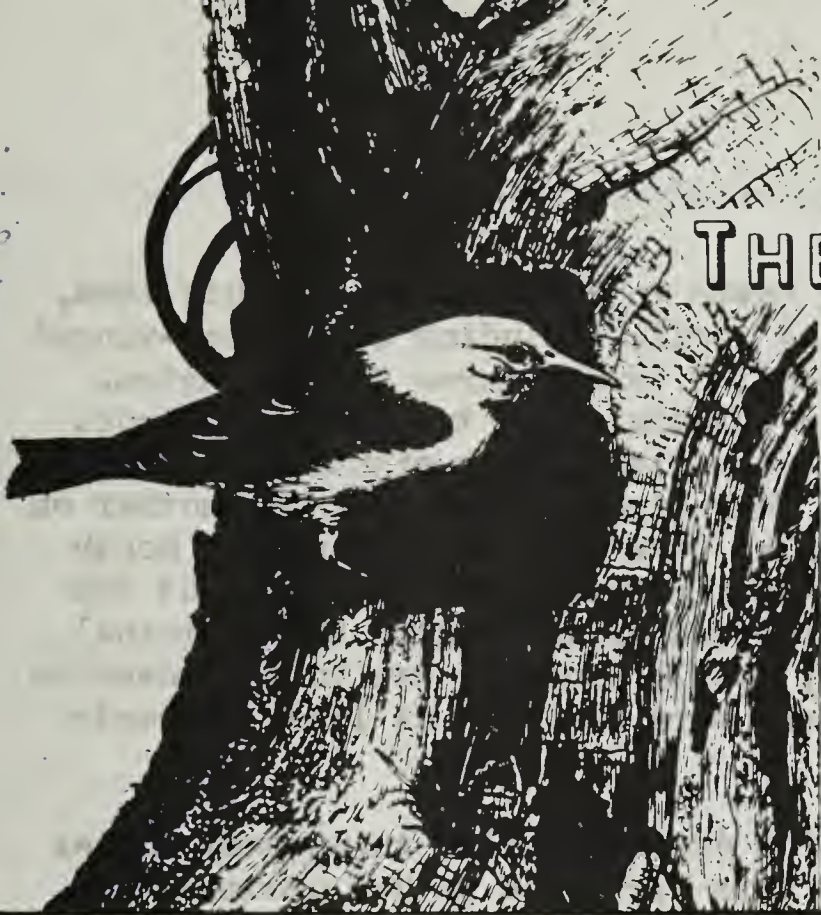
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14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

The weather in April was seasonable with the usual rather steep variation in temperatures anticipated on the Niagara Frontier during this month. Thus a warming trend during the first two weeks of the period ended on April 14th with heavy rains on that date preceding a cold front which tumbled the thermometer to a low reading of 24°(F) on the 17th. Up to two inches of snow in higher elevations of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties were recorded on April 16th. This unpleasant interlude was followed by another warming trend but temperatures never reached the high for the month of 70°(F) recorded on April 8th, the first time the thermometer climbed to this reading in the vicinity of Buffalo this year. The average temperature for the month was 46.1°(F), 1.2° above normal and precipitation in the form of rain measured 2.43 inches, 0.72 inches below average. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport).

The month began with a concentration of over 40,000 Canada Geese in the wetlands of the Oak Orchard area of Genesee and Orleans counties as well as good numbers of Pintails, American Wigeon and other waterfowl species. In addition to a few Snow Geese and the usual compliment of Whistling Swans among the waterfowl at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, a rare White-fronted Goose of uncertain race was seen at Cayuga Pool of that refuge during the B.O.S. bird count on April 13th. The mild weather of early April increased the numbers and species of spring migrants considerably. The first Ospreys of the season made their appearance in the area on April 5th and five Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area on that date. Large flights of migrant raptors and passerines were seen at the popular look-out at Pinehurst in the Town of Hamburg on April 7th, including 124 Turkey Vultures, Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallows. On April 20th, the first Broad-wing Hawk flights of the season were reported from Pinehurst and from the Allegany Road lookout in the Town of Hanover in Chautauqua County. The raptor flights during the month, while not spectacular in terms of very large numbers of birds, were nonetheless impressive. At the Beamer Point Conservation Area at Grimsby, Ontario, one of the



better vantage points for seeing migrating hawks and other birds in this area, a total of 9568 reptors were reported during April, including 4230 Broad-winged Hawks, 2921 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1066 Red-tailed Hawks, three Golden Eagles, all adult birds, and three Bald Eagles, one sub-adult and two immature birds. In addition, observers at Beamer Point were thrilled at the sighting of rare Sandhill Cranes on two occasions in April, four birds on the 4th and another on the 19th. At least three immature Bald Eagles were seen throughout the month in the wetlands of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent New York State Wildlife Management Areas. By the end of the month, the nocturnal migration of land birds was disappointingly small, probably due to a succession of cold nights. Only six species of warblers were reported as local migrants before May 1st!

There were many interesting records during April. An unusual number of reports of Great Egrets were received. This bird is a rather uncommon wanderer in the northeast in the spring. This year, several were reported in the Oak Orchard area, one from the Town of Yates, one from Silver Creek in Chautauqua County, one or two from the Tifft Farm Nature Preserve in Buffalo and one from Rock Point Provincial Park in Ontario. One or possibly two Snowy Egrets were reported from the Oak Orchard area. An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird spent several hours in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kirchner of Derby in southern Erie County on April 26th where it was remarkably tame and observed at close range.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migration
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Common Loon	April 15,24	2,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	" 20	3	Lilydale	Rew, et al
Red-necked Grebe	" 18	1	South Dayton	Schaffner, Rew et al
Horned Grebe	" 2	4	Beaverdams, Ont.	Novosel
	" 3	4	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	" 12	23	Amherst	McKales
	" 18	35	Langford Pond	Schaffner, Rew et al
Great Blue Heron	" 2	15	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	" 18	5	over Pinhurst	Schaffner, Rew et al
	" 23	10	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Novosel
*Green Heron	" 23F,24	1,1	Darien Center	Harper
	" 29	7	Iroquois NWR	Olsen



Volume 46, Number 5 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Great Egret	April	18	1	Buffalo	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	18	1	Silver Creek Res.	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	19	1	Town of Carlton	Andrle, et al
"	"	19	2	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, et al
"	"	23	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Novosel
*Black-cr. Night Heron	"	18	5	South Park	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	27	51	Niagara Falls, Ont.	McKales
Whistling Swan	"	19	5	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, et al
"	"	21	12	Oak Orchard area	McKales
Canada Goose	"	1	39,000	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Olsen
"	"	17	36,000	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Olsen
(maximum counts for the month)					
Snow Goose	"	9	2	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner
"	"			(white morph)	
"	"	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Andrle et al
"	"			(white morph)	
"	"	20	4	Town of Yates	Andrle et al (BOS)
(3 blue, 1 white morph)					
Gadwall	"	9	2	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner
"	"	12	12	Tiffit Farm N.P.	Schaffner, Zebehazy
"	"	20	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Blue-w. Teal	"	8F	40	Randolph	Elderkins
"	"	18	30	Kent Switch	Schaffner, Rew et al
Green-w. Teal	"	6	30	Tonawanda WMA	McKales
"	"	8	12	Randolph	Elderkins
Northern Shoveler	"	7	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner
"	"	8	5	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Foster
"	"	8	20	Randolph	Elderkins
White-w. Scoter	"	12	3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Ruddy Duck	"	9F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Schaffner
"	"	18	5	Port Colborne, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
"	"	18	5	Villanova	Rew et al
"	"	18	32	Silver Creek Rev.	Schaffner, Zebehazy
"	"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Hooded Merganser	"	18	18	Silver Creek Res.	Schaffner, Rew et al
Turkey Vulture	"	7	124	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	7	83	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
"	"	8	72	over Pinehurst	Andrle, et al
"	"	20	49	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
"	"	20	17	Town of Hanover	Schaffner, Clark
"	"	26	39	over Pinehurst	Andrle, et al
Cooper's Hawk	"	5, 21	1, 1	Limestone	Van Scoys
"	"	7, 17	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	"	13	1	Darien Center	Harper
"	"	18	2	Derby	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	20-30	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	"	25	1	Elma	Frosberg
*Broad-wing. Hawk	"	12F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	"	18	1	Dunkirk	Freeland
"	"	20	37	Town of Hanover	Schaffner, Clark
"	"	26	189	over Pinehurst	Andrle, et al
"	"	26	258	over Orchard Park	Andrle, Foster



Volume 46, Number 5 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Rough-leg. Hawk	April	3	1	Town of Newstead	Freeland
"	"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
"	"	7	2	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
"	"	9	1	Alabama	Schaffner
"	"	26	1	over Pinehurst	Andrle, Foster
Marsh Hawk	"	18	1	Evans	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	20	3	Town of Hanover	Schaffner, Clark
Bald Eagle	"	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
(immature)					
*Osprey	"	5F	1	Wales	Rosche
"	"	7	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
"	"	15-30	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	"	18	1	Langford Pond	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	18	1	Kent Switch	Schaffner, Rew et al
"	"	20	1	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, et al
"	"	20	1	Langford Pond	Chapples
"	"	25-29	1	Amity	Burtens
"	"	26	2	Orchard Park	Andrle, Foster
"	"	29	1	Spring Brook	Danner
American Kestrel	"	17	32	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
Turkey	"	3	3	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Virginia Rail	"	23F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
"	"	26	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
American Coot	"	4	8	Port Colborne, Ont	Novosel
"	"	9	1	Tonawanda WMA	Schaffner
"	"	12	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Upland Sandpiper	"	20	1	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
"	"	27	2	Java Center	Bee, Amey
*Spotted Sandpiper	"	23F	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Novosel
"	"	27	3	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
*Solitary Sandpiper	"	20F	1	Clarence	Wendlings
"	"	26	1	Conewango	Rew, Buck
"	"	26	1	Kent Switch	Rew, Buck
"	"	27-30	1	Darien Center	Harper
"	"	27	2	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
Greater Yellowlegs	"	2	6	Riverside	Elderlin
"	"	16	3	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
"	"	27	5	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	20	1	Langford Pond	Chapples
"	"	27	15	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
*Pectoral Sandpiper	"	8F	1	Riverside	Elderkins
"	"	27	35	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
*Least Sandpiper	"	27	1	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
*Dunlin	"	5	1	Riverside	Elderkins
"	"	27	15	Smithville, Ont.	Andrle, et al (BOS)
Bonaparte's Bull	"	9F-20	1-23	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
"	"	11,12	7,60	Niagara Falls	Rew
Glaucous Gull	"	16	1	Buffalo	Andrle, Foster
"	"	18	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Rew et al
Iceland Gull	"	13	1	Strawberry Island (Niagara River)	Schaffner, Zebehazy

Volume 46, Number 5 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

*Common Tern	April 11F	12	Niagara Falls	Rew
*Caspian Tern	" 20F	2	Langford Pond	Chapples
	" 23	1	Rock Pt.Prov.Pk.	Novosel
	" 25	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Chimney Swift	" 20F	1	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Common Flicker	" 7	12	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Zebehazy
	" 20	94	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	" 2-30	2	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	" 6,13,14	1,1,1	Darien Center	Harper
	" 15,18	1,1	Town of Sheldon	Rosche
	" 24	1	Middleport	Krog
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	" 8	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 11,19	1,2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Eastern Phoebe	" 4F	1	Wales	Rosche
	" 5	1	Riverside	Elderkins
	" 6-30	1-2	Belmont	Burtons
	" 6	13	Oak Orchard WMA	McKales
	" 6	1	Spring Brook	Danner
	" 6	2	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
Rough-w. Swallow	" 14	2	Spring Brook	Danner
	" 20	1	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	" 23	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Barn: Swallow	" 16	2	Fonthill, Ont.	Novosel
	" 19	3	Holland	Becker
	" 19-30	2-6	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
*Purple Martin	" 4F	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Novosel
	" 8	1	Pinehurst	Andrle, et al
Tufted Titmouse	" 1,4,7	1,1,1	Limestone	Van Scoys
	" 1-28	1,2	Elma	Forsberg
	" 20	2	Springbrook	Danner
	" 20	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	" 26	2	Amity	Pitzrick
*House Wren	" 21F,23	1,1	Elma	Forsberg
	" 22	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	" 22-30	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Winter Wren	" 23	2	Rock Pt.Prov.Park	Novosel
	" 29	1	Alfred	Brooks
Mockingbird	" 11	2	Alfred	Brooks
Brown Thrasher	" 21F	1	Wales	Rosche
	" 23	2	Rock Pt.Prov.Park	Novosel
	" 23-30	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Wood Thrush	" 30F	1	Times Beach, Bflo	Andrle, Foster
Hermit Thrush	" 20	3	Allenberg Bog	Chapple
	" 23	1	Rock Pt. Prov.Park	Novosel
Eastern Bluebird	" 1-30	12-20	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 1	1	Belmont	Burtons
	" 3,4,28	2,3,1	Alfred	Brooks
	" 5	1	Wales	Rosche
	" 6	1	Java	Becker
	" 7	1	Ivory	Elderkins
	" 10	2	Amity Lake	Burtons, Jordan
	" 19	1	Town of Royalton	Andrle et al



Volume 46, Number 5 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Golden-cr. Kinglet	April 6	3	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Olsen
*Ruby-cr. Kinglet	" 3F	1	Williamsville	Wendlings
	" 9-30	1-10	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 10	3	Spring Brook	Danner
*Water Pipit	" 26F	32	Conewango	Rew, Buck
*Solitary Vireo	" 19F-30	1-3	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 22	1	Elma	Forsberg
*Bl.&W. Warbler	" 26F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Yellow Warbler	" 28F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Yellow-r. Warbler	" 4F	2	Alfred	Brooks
	" 22	19	Amity	Pitzrick
*Pine Warbler	" 23F	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Novosel
*Palm Warbler	" 27F	1	Amherst	McKales
Northern Waterthrush	" 30	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 30F	1	Buffalo	Andrle, Foster
*Yellow-h. Blackbird	" 26	1	Derby	Kirchners
Rusty Blackbird	" 9	125	Eggertsville	McKales
Evening Grosbeak	" 1-30	8-25	Belmont	Burtens
	" 1-7	30-35	Limestone	Van Scoys
	" 1-30	40	Holland	Becker
	" 1-30	2-30	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 10,15,21	30,80,30	Wales	Rosche
<u>House Finch</u>	" 1-30	4-8	Belmont	Burtens
	" 1-30	12-16	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	" 2	2	Holland (f)	Becker
	" 3-30	2-13	Buffalo	Schaffner
	" 11,18	1,1	Amity	Pitzricks
	" 24,30	4,1	Amity	Pitzricks
*Savannah Sparrow	" 9F	3	Town of Newstead	Schaffner
	" 9F	1	Alabama	Schaffner
	" 9F	1	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner
	" 15	10	Wales	Rosche
*Vesper Sparrow	" 9F	1	Town of Newstead	Schaffner
	" 20	2	Amity	Pitzricks
Tree Sparrow	" 1-30	2-8	Belmont	Burtens
Chipping Sparrow	" 1-3,4-27	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	" 10F	1	Wales	Rosche
	" 20-30	3-8	Amity	Pitzricks
	" 21	1	Holland	Becker
White-cr. Sparrow	" 27F,29,30	1,2,1	Amity	Pitzrick
White-thr. Sparrow	" 18F	3	Sturgeon Point	Schaffner, Rew et al
	" 20	1	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	" 20-30	8-16	Belmont	Burtens
Fox Sparrow	" 11F	2	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 11F,12	1,1	Rosehill Rd., Ont.	Rew
	" 20	7	Allenberg Bog	Chapple
	" 22	1	Buffalo	Rew
Swamp Sparrow	" 6F	2	Oak Orchard WMA	McKales
	" 6F	2	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	" 9	2-4	Tonawanda WMA	Schaffner
	" 9	3	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner
	" 12,17	3,1	Alfred	Brooks

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....	123
Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue.....	37
Total for year.....	160

# ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

## Report of the April Bird Count

Compiler: Edward A. Williams

Date: April 13, 1980

Weather: Temperatures ranged between 30 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit with most Sections reporting an overcast morning followed by clearing in the afternoon and rising temperatures. The wind was reported variously as strong, cold, raw, sharp, and fresh.

Five Sections, 2, 14, 16, 21 and 27, were not covered which, no doubt, accounts for the low count of individuals - 152,033. The species total of 130 is above average.

Numbers in parentheses following individual totals indicate where a species was reported from three or fewer sections. An underlined species indicates that an acceptable verification report has been received. An asterisk beside the species indicates first 1980 record in the B.O.S. territory.

## Loons - Mergansers

*Common Loon F	17	American Wigeon	213
Red-necked Grebe	18	Northern Shoveler	82
Horned Grebe	161	Wood Duck	148
Pied-billed Grebe	66	Redhead	203
Gr. Blue Heron	223	Ring-necked Duck	291
*Great Egret F	2 (5)	Canvasback	1253
Whistling Swan	47	Greater Scaup	534
Canada Goose	45,318	Lesser Scaup	3020
*White-fronted Goose F	1 (10)	scaup, species	295
Snow Goose	3 (4)	Common Goldeneye	364
Mallard	768	Bufflehead	1083
Black Duck	111	Oldsquaw	673
Gadwall	54	White-w. Scoter	22
Pintail	472	Black Scoter	1 (3)
Green-w. Teal	53	scoter, species	5
Blue-w. Teal	411	Ruddy Duck	18
		Hooded Merganser	80
		Common Merganser	906
		Red-br. Merganser	3873



Vultures - Rails

Turkey Vulture	134	Marsh Hawk	39
Sharp-sh. Hawk	39	Osprey	16
Cooper's Hawk	20	Am. Kestrel	163
Red-tailed Hawk	198	Ruffed Grouse	63
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	Ring-n. Pheasant	39
Broad-wing. Hawk	5	Turkey	29
Rough-leg. Hawk	3 (3,9,25)	Virginia Rail	1 (10)
Bald Eagle	1 (24)	Am. Coot	268

Shorebirds - Gulls

Killdeer	416	Iceland Gull	1 (11)
Am. Woodcock	18	Gr. Black-b. Gull	11
Common Snipe	73	Herring Gull	1038
Upland Sandpiper F	2 (12)	Ring-b. Gull	26,206
Gr. Yellowlegs	3 (10,20)	Bonaparte's Bull	4020
Lr. Yellowlegs	8 (10,20)	Common Tern	4 (77,11)
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 (20)		
Glaucous Gull	2 (11)		

Doves - Flycatchers

Rock Dove	1261	Pileated Woodpecker	16
Mourning Dove	1219	Red-bellied Wdpkr.	28
Great Horned Owl	17	Red-headed Wdpkr.	3 (3,5)
Barred Owl	1 (24)	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	22
Short-eared Owl	5 (7,10)	Hairy Woodpecker	94
Belted Kingfisher	125	Downy Woodpecker	264
Common Flicker	290	Eastern Phoebe	113

Larks - Thrushes

Horned Lark, subsp.	78	Tufted Titmouse	5 (3,25)
E.a. alpestris	1	White-br. Nuthatch	193
E.a. praticola	36	Red-br. Nuthatch	17
Tree Swallow	2895	Brown Creeper	97
*Bank Swallow F	5 (7,23)	*Winter Wren F	8 (6,11,12)
*Rough-w. Swallow F	16	Mockingbird	3 (1,28)
*Barn Swallow F	35	Gray Catbird	1 (19)
Cliff Swallow	2 (8)	Brown Thrasher	2 (7,26)
Purple Martin	42	Am. Robin	6026
Blue Jay	583	Hermit Thrush	16
Common Crow	2100	E. Bluebird	54
Black-c. Chickadee	931		

Kinglets - Blackbirds

Golden-cr. Kinglet	162	House Sparrow	2572
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	28	E. Meadowlark	369
Cedar Waxwing	175	Red-w. Blackbird	10,208
*Loggerhead Shrike F	4	Rusty Blackbird	232
Starling	9504	Common Grackle	10,969
Yellow-r. Warbler	12	Brown-h. Cowbird	1393

Finches - Sparrows

Cardinal	395	Dark-eyed Junco	1609
Evening Grosbeak	945	Tree Sparrow	87
Purple Finch	102	Chipping Sparrow	17
House Finch	102	Field Sparrow	48
*Common Redpoll	1 (25)	Wh.-cr. Sparrow	15
Amer. Goldfinch	768	Wh.-thr. Sparrow	43
*Red Crossbill	3 (23)	Fox Sparrow	21
Rufous-s. Towhee	14	Swamp Sparrow	50
Savannah Sparrow	48	Song Sparrow	1780
Vesper Sparrow	25		

Total species: 130  
 Total Individuals: 152,033  
 Total Observers: 212

Territories and Observers (compilers are underlined)

1. Fonthill, Ont. Jerry Chapple, Drew and Linda Campbell.
2. Thorold, Ont. Not covered.
3. Wilson, N.Y. Walter and Harriette Klabunde, Dr. David Cooper, William Broderick.
4. Middleport, N.Y. Robert Brock, Kyle Brock, Bonney Harnist, Robert Klips, Anthony Messina
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. John Morse, Keith Jary, Ken Balmas, Elaine Nola, Paul Schnell, Odmund Olsen, Harold D. Mitchell, Richard and Gretchen Stevenson.
6. Port Maitland, Ont. Edward Williams, Wes Siegner, Rich Stockton.
7. Lowbanks, Ont. Blayne Farnan, Gary Novosel, Bab Farnan.
8. Fort Erie, Ont. Ronald T.W. Gardiner, Ralph E. Gardiner
9. Grand Island, N.Y. Karen Renning, William and Alice McKale
10. Akron, N.Y. Robert F. Andrle, Marcy N. Foster



Volume 46, Number 5 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

11. Buffalo, N.Y. Michael Zebehazy, Arthur Schaffner, Robert and Pauline Schwartz, Joseph Thill, Harold Mitchell.
12. Lancaster, N.Y. Marie Wendling, Anna Bauer, Ima Bill, Fred and Dorothy Danner, Ray Franz, Tom Harper, Gertrude Webster, Cyaand Bernardine Wolfling.
13. Batavia, N.Y. George L. Mahaney, Dave Keller, Don and Carrie Thureau, Robert and Eileen Hull.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. Not covered.
15. Java, N.Y. David Junkin, Esther Becker, Marion Bee, Bill Bogacki, Ray Hein, Olga Rosche.
16. Angola, N.Y. Not covered.
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. William C. Vaughan and Museum Bird Class.
18. Delevan, N.Y. Donald and Jane Clark.
19. Fillmore, N.Y. Allegany County Bird Club, Marjorie Main, Margaret Kaufman, Fay Clancy, Lois Harvey, Harland Hale, Theola Haynes, Jennie Kolakowski, Josephine Main, Edna Marvin, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mills, Jean Perry, Ruth Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Smith, Mrs. Harold K. Smith, Larry Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Boone, Dr. Victor Carpenter, Andrew Mullen, Mr. and Mrs. Spenser, Ruth Gilman.
20. Silver Creek, N.Y. Frances M. Rew, Lois I. Buck.
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. Not covered.
22. Sherman, N.Y. Jamestown Audubon Society. Robert Sundell, Robert Price.
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. Jamestown Audubon Society, Robert Sundell, David Gagne, Lewis Kibler, Archie Richardson.
24. Allegany S.P., N.Y. Cattaraugus County Bird Club, John and Mary Forness, Jerry and Celeste Skrzeczowski.
25. Allegany, N.Y. Cattaraugus County Bird Club, John and Mary Forness, Dorothy Baker, Lucille Bordonaro, Carri Calbi, Dr. S.W. Eaton, Charles and Margaret Green, Esther Herron, Alene Johnson, Fred Meyer, Helen Munson Jerry and Celeste Skrzeczowski.

26. Cuba, N.Y. Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Mary Jordan, Bruce Smalle, Ann and Morris Scott, Sharon Baumgardner, John and Betty Compton, Milford and Sylvia Foster, Margaret Hand, Alfred Voorhies.
27. Boliver, N.Y. Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Emma King, Celestia K. Abbott, Frances DeGroff, Helen Link.
28. Alfred, N.Y. Allegany County Bird Club, Elizabeth Brooks, Vivian Pitzrick, Warren and Dorothy Bouck, Warren Brooks, Glenn Bucher, Vivien Carr, Lorry Chapman, Ann Eisenhardt, Peter and Terry Finlay, David Horton, Margaret and Clarence Klingensmith, Tim and Cathy MacDonald, Beverly Perry, Agnes and Everett Rhodes, Connor Stevens, Helen Thomas, Doris Hurlburt, Stell and Lillian Simons, Dorothy Bayless, Esther Biehl, Lorna, Don, Sonja and Tara Brink, Ann Catlin, Susan, Carolyn and Jim Copenheaver, Phyllis Dubriel, Jay and Louis Gibson, Nathan Hardy, Fay and Ben Heller, Viola Ide, Linn Phelan, Pauline Sanford, Violet Sharrett, Allen and Gladys Witter, Doris and Lou Burton, Ruth and Clifford Burton, F.L. Casterline, Matthew Hotchkiss, Raymond Pitzrick, Bera Brown, Grace Buckley, Dale and Evelyn Coats, Paul and Mary Alice Fuller, James Claribel, Robert and Virginia Macauley, Martin and Genevieve McQueen, David Reynolds, Ernest and Lynn Rosityke, Burnadean Stein, Theodore and Lorena Vossle, June Babcock, Myrtle Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Burdick, Estella Cronauer, Christine Ferrand, Helen Graves, Mr. and Mrs. George Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Long, Erma Larson, Mrs. Robert Sick, Mrs. Gordon Taggart, Mrs. William Thompson.

HAWK WATCH IN GRIMSBY AREA - APRIL 1980

April this year was somewhat different from last year. Whereas there were six days with no hawks migrating due to rain and fog, last year only two days were "lost" due to blizzards. Although not hot, the month was not so cold as last year.

The total number of hawks that have come through April varied considerably by species. Of the fifteen species normally listed, nine showed increased numbers and six were lower - actually neither Peregrine Falcon nor Merlin have been recorded (yet) this year. Significant increases (over 25%) were recorded for Turkey Vultures (108%), Goshawks (150%), Cooper's Hawks (105%), Red-shouldered Hawks (30%), Bald Eagles (50%), and American Kestrels (110%). The increases in Red-tailed Hawk (12%), Marsh Hawk (12%) and Osprey (15%) are not considered significant.



Rough-legged Hawks are the only species to show a significant decrease (-56%). As indicated last month this was anticipated due to the mild winter. Because our two most numerous species - Sharp-shins and Broadwings showed decreases of 12% and 16% respectively, the overall total number of hawks recorded was just 55 less this year to date than last year, namely 12,280 vs 12,325. It is anticipated that the May flights may make up for the six "lost" days of April.

The following table shows the daily hawk counts recorded at Beamer and Woolverton Rd. Lookouts for the month of April. The observations made in Grimsby (below the escarpment) are listed separately and are not included in the month total except as noted.

SUMMARY OF GRIMSBY AREA APRIL 1980 HAWK WATCH

DATE	TIME	L	N	TV	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	MH	OS	AK	UH	TOTAL
1	B 9.0		4			6	6	35	48		3			3		2	1	108
2	B 5.3		3			3	3	42	12		1	2(A)		2		1		69
3	B 7.3		1			4	2	57	8									72
4	B 5.0		4			1		2	1		2		1(sa)	2		1	1	19
5	B 8.6	310				10	13	51	1					6		14	1	406
6	B 8.5	78				74	20	224	46		1			8	2	8	126	587
6	W 2.7	30			1	63	5	161	37		1			1			1	300
7	B 8.0	63			1	282	4	123	29		1		1(im)	2	1	13	12	532
8	B 6.4	8				387	3	96	27		1	1(a)		6	1	6	9	545
9	B 6.6	1				137	4	6	5					3		2	2	160
10	B 5.3																	0
11	B 7.2	4				8			1						4			17
12	B 6.0																	0
13	B 9.5	19				19	2	39			4					4	3	90
14	B 0																	0
15	B 0																	0
16	B 7.6	4				4	1	6							1		2	18
16	W 1.0					1											1	2
17	B 7.8	24				251	4	22	3	6				5		2	16	333
18	B 7.7	15				58	1	14		10	1			1		1	8	109
19	B 10.0	21				531	8	40	7	114	1		1(im)	3	4	3		733
20	B 6.0	4				78	1	19		54	1				2		15	174
20	W 0.9					16	1			10				2			2	31
21	B 7.8	4				51	1	8		11				2	2	3	8	90
22	B 7.7	2				219		25	2	85	2			1	1	2	7	346

Volume 46, Number 5 - "Hawk Watch" (con't.)

D	L	H															
A	O	O															
T	C	U															
E	A	R															
S	T	S															
I																	
O																	
N	TV	GO	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	RL	GE	BE	MH	OS	AK	UH	TOTAL		
23 B 7.8	2		74		18		15				1		2	2	114		
24 B 7.5			44		10	1	258	1			1		1	8	324		
25 B 6.7			7												7		
26 B 5.6			211	7	15		2569				2	1	1		2806		
27 B 8.2	4		345	5	40	1	1020	1			1	3	1		1421		
28 B 4.5							FOG & RAIN								0		
29 B 0							FOG & RAIN								0		
30 B 4.3			37	2	13		78	1			1	1			133		
TOTAL 194.5	620	3	2921	93	1066	229	4230	22	3	3	53	23	68	224	9558		
17 G 0.3	1	1*	23	2	14		2								43		
19 G 0.3	15*														15		

\*Counted in monthly Total

Lookout Code

B - Beamer

W - Woolverton Rd.

G - Grimsby plain

## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

To New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Participants in Region 1:

This initial year of the breeding bird atlas project appears to have been an active one here and also in other areas of the state. In our region nearly 100 members and friends of the various clubs in western New York have joined in and found "atlasing" an interesting and stimulating experience.

I am sure that many have discovered that this kind of field study is challenging and a good way to learn more about the behavior, habitats and distribution of our resident birds. It is certainly a means to become better acquainted with their songs and calls.

So far a variety of birds of prey have been recorded, including Goshawk, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. At least 24 species of warblers have been tallied, including Prothonotary, Yellow-rumped, Prairie and Kentucky. A rare Orchard Oriole nest was also found.

Observers are covering many areas ranging from their own properties to one or more grid squares or blocks. Remember that species recorded this year can always be checked and possibly upgraded in the next or a future year of the project. An atlas newsletter containing statewide information will be sent to participants later this summer.



When you think that you have recorded all the information possible this season, please fill out a green report form, only one for each square, regardless of whether you covered all or part of one, and send it to me. Please be sure to include time and dates on the back of the form. If you have any questions about the form or any part of the project, please contact me.

Thank you all for your good work, interest and enthusiasm and I hope that we can continue to carry on through the remaining years of the project so that at its end Region 1 can announce full coverage of its large area. I am sure that the final results of this cooperative study, when published, will be most informative, valuable ornithologically, and a tribute to those who worked so diligently toward its completion.

Robert F. Andrle  
Coordinator, Region 1  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14211  
tel.: 716-896-5200

#### HAWK WATCHERS AT GRIMSBY

April 27. This was a good day for the hawk watchers at Grimsby, Ontario. The site was at the Beamer Conservation Area, on the escarpment directly above the town, 29 miles west of the Queenston bridge. Although a chilly overcast day, the easterly wind brought a good flight which started before the 20 BOS members arrived at 9:15 AM (DST). The date was well into the Broad-winged Hawk season and 1020 individuals were counted. Next came Sharp-shinned Hawk at 345. Other sightings were 5 Cooper's, 40 Red-tails, 1 Rough-shoulder, 1 Rough-leg, 1 Northern Harrier, 3 Osprey, 1 Kestrel and 4 Turkey Vultures; a total of 1421 birds.

At 12:30 PM observers at the point saw two Broad-wings settle into the trees across the ravine. Wind conditions had become unfavorable and the hawk flight ceased within an hour.

At 1:45 PM the birders drove to the Smithville Sewage Lagoons, 13 miles distant toward Niagara Falls. Although the water in the 3 ponds was high, the muddy banks had attracted some shorebirds. Noted were 30 Pectoral Sandpipers, 12 Dunlin, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Least Sandpiper Killdeer, and 2 Solitary Sandpipers. Waterfowl included several each of Blue-wing Teal, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Wood Duck. Flying over the pond and perched on the fence were about 800 Tree Swallows and 200 Barn Swallows.

The Lagoon is at the east edge of Smithville, Ontario. It is reached by turning south off Highway 20 onto Highway 614 and going 1/4 mile. From the locked gate at the road one walks in about 1/4 mile. The Public Works Department (telephone 416-685-1571) had assured us that birders were welcome despite the "No Trespassing" sign. Some good finds have been made recently at the Lagoon, including Ruff and Northern-and Wilson's Phalarope.

Walter Klabunde and William Burch

WOOD SANDPIPER SPECIMEN RECORD FROM ORLEANS COUNT

In the May 1980 issue of American Birds (Vol.34, No.3), Victoria M. Dziadosz reports the discovery of the first specimen record of the Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola) for the contiguous United States. The bird was collected October 10, 1907 at Gaines, Orleans County, New York, which puts it in the B.O.S. study area.

The study skin which is at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California at Berkeley originally had been identified as that of a Solitary Sandpiper (Tringa solitaria), but John G. Williams, while visiting the museum, discovered the error.

The discovery is truly a record of many dimensions. The 1957 A.O.U. Check-list notes the bird as accidental in Alaska. As Ms. Dziadosz points out, it is "...the only specimen record and earliest known record for the contiguous United States," and, "...one of the earliest records for North America."

THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE

In the tropical rainforests of the Philippines, the rare Philippine (Monkey-eating) Eagle is fighting for survival. The ravages of forest destruction and human encroachment are pushing this second largest of eagles to the brink of extinction. The most comprehensive study, to date, of this fascinating forest raptor, has been accomplished by F.R.E.E., LTD. (Films and Research for an Endangered Environment, Ltd.).

One result of the 18-month expedition is an intense documentary film depicting the drama of adult eagles raising their young midst one of the most endangered environments on the face of the earth. Seen in this film are the intimacies eagles share, and the hazards eagles face in the wild. The effects that logging, and slash and burn farming have on the fragile ecosystem upon whose balance every living organism, including man, depends is revealed in this 55 minute film, as are the jubilations and hardships enveloping the researchers while striving to document and protect the eagle and its habitat.

A great symbol of vanishing Philippine wildlife is the Philippine Eagle. This magnificent predator, endemic to the Philippines, once ranged over most of the larger islands - Luzon, Mindanao, Leyte, and Samar. Today its population is reduced to less than 500 individuals. Its reproductive rate is precarious. It lays only one egg every two years and the offspring depends on its parents for more than one year after learning to fly.

Most alarming is man's failure to realize his own dependence upon nature. The ecological effects of drastic alteration of the landscape are shocking - not only are thousands of plant and animal species lost, but also a degradation of man's quality of life is assured.

F.R.E.E., LTD. SUITE 1735 201 N. Wells St. Chicago, Illinois 60606



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

Sept. 12-14. Weekend hawk watch at Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley, Ontario. Leader, Dr. Harold Axtell. Make your own travel arrangements or call Peter or Lois Matlock (652-4519) if you need a ride or can share a space in your car. Accommodations will be at the Maple Leaf Motel (519-631-6580) or the Wendie Leigh Motel (519-631-7580) on Rt. 3 on the eastern edge of St. Thomas ten miles from the lookout. Dr. Axtell will meet us Friday night or early Saturday morning at the Maple Leaf Motel.

Sept. 26-28. Annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at Pawling, N.Y. Members are urged to attend.

Oct. 12 - Fall Bird Count. Compiler, Brad Lown (668-9433). Call Brad to obtain further information or to volunteer to cover one of the 28 sections in this important annual census.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Sept. 10 - Share your recent birding experiences at our first meeting since the summer break. Bring photos and slides, to show and stories to relate.

Sept. 25 - The Philippine Eagle. In lieu of our second monthly meeting in September, members are urged to attend a special showing of a film on the rare Philippine (formerly Monkey-eating) Eagle. The film was made under the auspices of F.R.E.E. Ltd. and is being sponsored jointly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society and the Buffalo Museum of Science. Please note that September 25 is a Thursday night. Starting time is 8:00 p.m. in the Museum auditorium and there will be a \$2.50 donation for admission.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, N.Y. 14211

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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NUMBER 6

## THE MONTH

May temperatures were seasonable, averaging  $58.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $3.0^{\circ}$  above normal for the period. Precipitation in the form of rain measured 1.60 inches, 1.37 inches below the norm. There were no major weather disturbances. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

May arrived with a continuation of the cool weather of late April and the temperature did not reach  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$  at Buffalo until the 16th. However, winds were predominantly from the southwest most of the month and the migration of warblers and other small passerines picked up considerably during the first week of May. Among the early migrants was a Prairie Warbler seen during a scheduled bird walk at Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve on May 11th. An unverified report of a rare Harris Sparrow was received from the Town of Lancaster on that date also. On May 14th, following an overnight rainfall, small passerines were everywhere to be seen in the Buffalo area, the rain apparently interrupting a large nocturnal flight of migrants. This wave included unusually large flocks of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, one group of 18 of these birds being reported from South Buffalo. Also seen at this time were two unusual migrants, a Brewster's Warbler at East Aurora and a Prothonotary Warbler along Ellicott Creek in Williamsville. On May 19th, a Kentucky Warbler was reported from the Sinking Ponds nature trail in East Aurora.

The most interesting records of the month were received from the sewage ponds at Smithville, Lincoln County, Ontario. On May 4th, a male Ruff in partial breeding plumage was seen among the shorebirds gathered there and by May 11th, it had been joined by a female (Reeve) and by both Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes in their striking nuptial finery. The Ruff thrilled observers with an impromptu courting display but on the following day both it and the Reeve had disappeared.

Other interesting records for the month include more reports of the Great Egret from the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and from Buckhorn Island State Park at the north end of Grand Island. A Cattle Egret was observed by



John Morse in a cow pasture in the Town of Alabama on May 14th and on May 16th, a second Cattle Egret was reported on the golf course of the Bethlehem Steel Management Club in the Town of Hamburg. Both adult and immature Bald Eagles were seen in the Oak Orchard area during May. Two wild turkeys were reported crossing N.Y. Route #78 in the Town of Orchard Park on May 15th. A Willet, a very rare shorebird migrant in the Great Lakes region in spring, was seen at Rock Point Provincial Park on May 17th and 18th. It is interesting to note that no records of Whimbrel were received from our study area in May. Robert Andrle had two sightings of Acadian Flycatcher, one at Times Beach on May 20th and one at Erie Beach, Ontario on May 27th. Alice and Bill McKale observed a male Pine Warbler singing in Oakland Rural Cemetery in the Town of Porter on May 26th, long after the usual migration dates of this species through our region. Finally, Arthur Clark reported a very rare Clay-colored Sparrow from the Town of Hamburg on May 1st.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migration
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	May 10	2	Grand Island	A. Clarks
	17,25	2,1	Alfred	Brooks
	18	13	Grimsby Beach, Ont.	Chapple
	27	3	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Axtell
D-cr. Cormorant	10	3	Rock Pt. Prov. Pk.	Schaffner
	29	15	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Duncan
*Cattle Egret	14	1	Town of Alabama	Morse
Great Egret	4	3	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	10	1	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	A. Clarks
*American Bittern	3 <sup>F</sup>	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morse
	19	1	Alfred	Brooks
Black-cr. Night Heron	3	2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle et al
	10	3	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	A. Clarks
*Brant	25	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	McKales
	27	16	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Gadwall	10	8	Rock Pt. Prov. Pk.	Schaffner
	10	16	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	A. Clarks

Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Northern Shoveler	10	2	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	A. Clarks
<u>Goshawk</u>	4-30	1	Alleg. Co.	Pitzrick
	25	1	Town of New Albion	Chapple
	26	1	Gowanda	Andrle et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	3	25	Evangola St. Pk.	Schaffner, Clark
	3	273	Town of Hanover	Schaffner et al
	17	12	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Red-tailed Hawk	3	39	Town of Hanover	Schaffner et al
Broad-wing. Hawk	3	129	Evangola St. Pk.	Schaffner, Clark
	3	1037	Town of Hanover	Schaffner et al
Bald Eagle	14,19	1,1imm.	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Osprey	1,2	1,1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Jundin
	1,6	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	3	4	Town of Hanover	Schaffner et al
	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	5	1	Scio	Burtons
	7	1	Amity	Burtons
	10	1	Alfred	Brooks
	10	1	New Hudson Twp.	Pitzrick
	27	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle, Foster
*Sora	12F	1	Burgeson Sanctuary	Elderkin
*Common Gallinule	4F	2	Clarence	McKales
	25	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Mitchell et al
*Semipalm. Plover	12F	34	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
*Black-bell. Plover	12F	1	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
*Upland Sandpiper	10F	2	Rock Pt. Prov. Pk.	Schaffner
	21	1	Kiantone	Elderkin
*Willet	17	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Thills
*Red Knot	25	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	McKales
	29	2	Rock Pt. Prov. Pk.	Duncan
Least Sandpiper	12	150	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
Dunlin	10	1	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	A. Clarks
*Short-b. Dowitcher	12	3	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
*Stilt Sandpiper	12	1	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
*W.-rump. Sandpiper	18	1	Smithville, Ont.	Chapple et al
	25	2	Tifft Farm N.P.	Mitchell et al
*Wilson's Phalarope	12F	5	Smithville, Ont.	Schaffner, Clark
*Black Tern	6F	7	Burgeson Sanctuary	Elderkin
	8	2	Alfred	Brooks
*Yellow-b. Cuckoo	22F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Black-b. Cuckoo	12F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	21	2	Town of Wales	Rosche
*Whip-poor-will	15F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
*Common Nighthawk	16F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	19	1	Buffalo	A. Clark
Chimney Swift	3	7	Town of Hanover	Schaffner et al
	3	3	Spring Brook	Danner
*Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	13F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	14	1	Belmont	Burtons



Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't)

Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1-31	1	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	17	5	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	27	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Axtell
*Eastern Kingbird	3F	1	Ivory	Elderkin
	7	2	Angelica	Burtens, Jordan
	7	1	Amity	Pitzricks
	17	85	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
*Gr. Crest. Flycatcher	4F-31	4-6	Amity	Pitzricks
	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	5	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
*Acadian Flycatcher	20F	1	Times Beach, Bflo	Andrle, Foster
	27F	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
*Willow Flycatcher	17F	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	21	1	Jamestown	Elderkin
*Alder Flycatcher	16F 31	1-6	Amity	Pitzrick
	28	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Least Flycatcher	4F	1	Ellicottville	Rosche
	4F-31	1-18	Amity	Pitzricks
	6	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
*Eastern Wood Pewee	4F		Tift Farm N.P.	Brock
	16-31	3-9	Amity	Pitzrick
	18	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	12F	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Elderkin
	31	1	Forestville	Becker et al
*Bank Swallow	3F	2	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	4	3	Scio	Pitzricks
*Cliff Swallow	15F	1	Java	Becker
	17	8	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Blue Jay	17	944	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	22	447	over Pinehurst	A. Clark
	23	691	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
Tufted Titmouse	1,3	1,1	Elma	Forsberg
	6	2	Elma	Forsberg
	17	1	Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
	19	1	Town of Wales (f)	Rosche
	19	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	Schaffner
	25,27	1,1	Spring Brook	Danner
Carolina Wren	3	1	Allenberg Bog	Chapple
	4	1	Forest Lawn, Bflo.	Thill
*Long-b. Marsh Wren	16F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	25	1	Tift Farm N.P.	Mitchell et al
*Short-b. Marsh Wren	31F	1	Iroquois NWR	Andrle et al
Mockingbird	10	1	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Schaffner
	23	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	24	1	Ridgeway, Ont.	Axtell
Gray Catbird	7F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	7F	1	Amity	Pitzricks
	10	1	Mud Lake, Ont.	Achaffner
	10	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin

Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Wood Thrush	6	2	Iroquois NWR	Morse, Olsen
	6	1	Spring Brook	Danner
*Swainson's Thrush	12F	2	Darien Center	Harper
	14	1	Eggertsville	McKales
-*Gray-ch. Thrush	20F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Veery	4F	1	Town of Wales	Rosche
	10	1	Darien Center	Harper
Eastern Bluebird	1-31	24	Amity	Pitzricks
	12	2	Frewsburg	Elderkin
	14	1	Town of Wales	Rosche
	18,28	1,2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	25	2	Beaver Meadow EEC	Becker et al
	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Andrle et al
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	4F	3	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	7	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	Schaffner
Water Pipit	3	2	Town of Hanover	Schaffner, Clark
Cedar Waxwing	23	1083	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	5F,31	1,3	Spring Brook	Danner
*Red-eyed Vireo	10F	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
	11	3	Spring Brook	Danner
-*Philadelphus Vireo	19F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
*Warbling Vireo	7F	2	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	Schaffner
	10	2	Spring Brook	Danner
	10	1	Alfred	Brooks
	10-31	2-6	Amity	Pitzrick
Bl.-&-w. Warbler	5	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Golden-w. Warbler	10F	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Blue-w. Warbler	7F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	10	1	Alfred	Brooks
*Tennessee Warbler	7F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	20	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Nashville Warbler	3F	4	Alenberg Bog	Chapple
	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	5	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	5-31	1-10	Alfred	Brooks
	5-31	2-14	Amity	Pitzrick
*Northern Parula	16F	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	18	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	19	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	Schaffner
Yellow Warbler	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Magnolia Warbler	6F	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	A. Clark
	13	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Cape May Warbler	6F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	10	1	Mud Lake, Ont.	Schaffner
*Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	7F,12	1,1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	12	2	Amity	Pitzrick
*Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	3F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	5-31	1-15	Alfred	Brooks



Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

*Cerulean Warbler	12F,29	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Olsen
*Blackburnian Warbler	4F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	5 -31	1 -12	Alfred	Brooks
	7	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo	Schaffner
	7	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	7F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	10	1	Alfred	Brooks
	10- 31	1- 6	Amity	Pitzricks
*Bay-br. Warbler	12F	3	Amity	Pitzricks
	13	1	Alfred	Brooks
*Blackpoll Warbler	14F	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
Pine Warbler	2	1	Town of Porter	Klabundes
	26	1	Town of Porter	McKales
*Prairie Warbler	11F	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle et al
	12-30	1-3	Alfred	Brooks
	22	3	Amity	Pitzricks
	28	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
Palm Warbler	3	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle, Foster
*Ovenbird	2F-31	1-5	Amity	Pitzricks
	3	2	Allenberg Bog	Chapple
Northern Waterthrush	3	2	Allenberg Bog	Chapple
*Louisiana Waterthrush	12F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Mourning Warbler	23F	1	Alfred	Brooks
	24	1	Town of Wales	Rosche
*Common Yellowthroat	6F-31	1-8	Amity	Pitzricks
	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	7	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Hooded Warbler	14F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Wilson's Warbler	16F	1	Holland	Becker
	22	1	Amity	Pitzrick
*Canada Warbler	12F	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	15	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
*Amer. Redstart	5F	1	Orchard Park	Andrle
	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Bobolink	3F	1	Town of Hanover	Schaffner
	5	1	Town of Wales	Rosche
*Northern Oriole	6F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
	6F-31	1- 10	Amity	Pitzrick
	7	1	Town of Wales	Rosche
	7	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
*Scarlet Tanager	4F-31	1- 4	Amity	Pitzrick
	7	2	Burgeson Sanctuary	Elderkin
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	5F	5	Spring Brook	Danner
	5F-31	4- 8	Amity	Pitzrick
	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Indigo Bunting	11F-31	1-10	Amity	Pitzricks
	14	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin

Volume 46, Number 6 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Evening Grosbeak	1-4	25	Holland	Becker
	1-5	10-30	Town of Wales	Rosche
	1-8	12-8	Amity (f)	Pitzricks
	4	10	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	6,7	6,1	Belmont	Burtons
	8	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Becker
	11,20	1,2	Town of Wales	Rosche
	12	2	Alfred	Brooks
	14	2	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	25	2	Tiffy Farm N.P.	Mitchell et al
<u>House Finch</u>	1-31	8-35	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	1-31	4-8	Belmont	Burtons
	1-31	1-4	Lewiston	Klabundes
	1,4	1,1	Wellsville	Pitzrick
	2-31	1-2	Buffalo	Schaffner
	2	3	Buffalo	Schaffner
	3	2	Belmont	Pitzrick
	4	2	Scio	Pitzrick
	4	2	Forest Lawn, Bflo.	Thills
	11	1	Middleport	Krog
	11	1	Wellsville	Graves, Pitzrick
	25,26	2	Kenmore	Thills
	26-31	1-2	Alfred	Brooks
Pine Siskin	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
	8	22	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Red Crossbill	3,23	6,2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	15,24	5,2	Alfred	Brooks
	26	8	Wilson Cemetery	McKales
American Goldfinch	17	200	over Pinehurst	Schaffner, Clark
*Grasshopper Sparrow	13F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	23,27	1,2	Amity	Pitzrick
*Henslow's Sparrow	5F	4	Alfred	Klingensmith
	5F-31	1-4	Alfred	Brooks
	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Morse
*Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1	Hamburg	A. Clark, McNeil
*Lincoln's Sparrow	12F	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Junkin
	14,15	1	Eggertsville (f)	McKales

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....160

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue.....82

Total for year.....242



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Report of May Bird Count - 1980

Date: May 18, 1980

Compiled by John and Mary Forness  
3086 Haskell Rd., R.D.#2, Cuba, N.Y. 14727

Weather: One hundred percent cloud cover in the A.M., clearing in the P.M. with some sun. Temperatures were in the 50's and mid 60's through the day with showers to misty conditions. Winds were mostly southwest at 10-20 mph.

Compilation: Following is a list of species recorded on the count and the total numbers of each. Figures in parentheses indicate section numbers where species were recorded in three or fewer sections. Underlined common names indicate that acceptable written verifications were required. An asterisk indicates first 1980 record for the B.O.S. territory.

Loons - Mergansers

Common Loon	43	Gadwall	12(6,10)
Red-necked Grebe	1(6)	Green-winged Teal	3(1,10)
Pied-billed Grebe	5(6,10)	Blue-winged Teal	68
D.-crest. Cormorant	2(6)	American Wigeon	18(10,11,19)
Great Blue Heron	143	Northern Shoveler	3(10,12)
Green Heron	55	Wood Dreck	120
Least Bittern	1(24)	Greater Scaup	4(8,20,28)
American Bittern	12	*Black Scoter	5(6)
Canada Goose	97	Ruddy Duck	1(1)
Mallard	508	Red-breasted Merganser	34(6,8)
Black Duck	25(13,19,28)		

Vultures - Rails

Turkey Vulture	72	Osprey	2(24,26)
Goshawk	3(24,28)	American Kestrel	57
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Ruffed Grouse	41
Cooper's Hawk	9	Ring-necked Pheasant	35
Red-tailed Hawk	64	Turkey	15
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Virginia Rail	1(11)
Broad-winged Hawk	10	Sora	1(10)
Rough-legged Hawk	3(19,25)	Common Gallinule	11
Bald Eagle	2(10,24)	American Coot	13(10,12)
Marsh Hawk	3(12,19,26)		

Shorebirds

Semysalmated Plover	30(1,10)	Lesser Yellowlegs	2(1,13)
Killdeer	374	Pectoral Sandpiper	7(12,13)
Black-bellied Plover	5(6)	Least Sandpiper	64
American Woodcock	15	Dunlin	30(1,6,26)
Common Snipe	27	Short-billed Dowitcher	6(1)
Upland Sandpiper	2(15)	Stilt Sandpiper	1(1)
Spotted Sandpiper	123	*Semipalmated Sandpiper	47(1,6)
Solitary Sandpiper	10	*Sanderling	1(24)
Willet	1(6)	*Ruddy Turnstone	5(8)
Greater Yellowlegs	1(1)		

Jaegers - Flycatchers

Great Bl.-backed Gull	7(6,8,20)	Common Flicker	233
Herring Gull	250	Pileated Woodpecker	9
Ring-billed Gull	3916	Red-bellied Woodpecker	15
Bonaparte's Gull	26(4,6)	Red-headed Woodpecker	23
Common Tern	167(6,8)	Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	5(20,27,28)
Caspian Tern	5(6)	Hairy Woodpecker	63
Black Tern	41	Downy Woodpecker	173
Rock Dove	590	Eastern Kingbird	300
Mourning Dove	551	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	113
Yellow b. Cuckoo	2(15,25)	Eastern Phoebe	154
Black-b. Cuckoo	16	*Yellow-b. Flycatcher	2(20)
*Barn Owl	1(1)	Willow Flycatcher	7(3,11)
Great Horned Owl	16	Alder Flycatcher	7(11)
Barred Owl	1(28)	Least Flycatcher	117
Common Nighthawk	5(13,15,20)	E. Wood Pewee	29
Chimney Swift	526		
Ruby - t. Hummingbird	53		
Belted Kingfisher	90		

Larks - Thrushes

H. Lark ( <u>E. praticola</u> )	76	House Wren	268
Tree Swallow	1432	Winter Wren	3(12,28)
Bank Swallow	509	Long-b. Marsh Wren	11
Rough-w. Swallow	239	Short-b. Marsh Wren	1(17)
Barn Swallow	2611	Gray Catbird	627
Cliff Swallow	56(13,24,28)	Brown Thrasher	81
Purple Martin	910	American Robin	3864
Blue-Jay	651	Wood Thrush	238
Common Crow	907	Hermit Thrush	30
Black-c. Chickadee	515	Swainson's Thrush	37
Tufted Titmouse	3(13,20,25)	Gray-ch. Thrush	3(11,20)
White-br. Nuthatch	99	Veery	68
Red-br. Nuthatch	13(12,15,28)	Eastern Bluebird	93
Brown Creeper	6		



Volume 46, Number 6 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

Kinglets - Weaver Finches

Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	8	Bl.-thr. Gr. Warbler	128
Golden-cr. Kinglet	10(15,28)	Cerulean Warbler	10(10,13,25)
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	17	Blackburn, Warbler	85
Water Pipit	18(6,10,12)	Chestnut-s. Warbler	95
Cedar Waxwing	321	Bay-br. Warbler	86
Starling	3399	Blackpoll Warbler	10
Yellow-thr. Vireo	9	Pine Warbler	1(6)
Solitary Vireo	20	Prairie Warbler	6(28)
Red-eyed Vireo	104	Palm Warbler	2(20)
Philadelphia Vireo	13(11,19,20)	Ovenbird	146
Warbling Vireo	42	Nor. Waterthrush	9
Black-White Warbler	32	La. Waterthrush	1(25)
Golden-w. Warbler	7(10)	*Kentucky Warbler	1(25)
Blue-w. Warbler	53	Mourning Warbler	7(10,19,20)
Tennessee Warbler	35	Common Yellowthroat	675
*Orange-cr. Warbler	1(15)	*Yellow-br. Chat	3(11,19)
Nashville Warbler	59	Hooded Warbler	16
Yellow Warbler	873	Wilson's Warbler	13
Maynolia Warbler	114	Canada Warbler	22
Cape May Warbler	24	American Redstart	198
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	36	House Sparrow	5018
Yellow-r. Warbler	287		

Blackbirds - Finches

Bobolink	865	American Goldfinch	1758
E. Meadowlark	269	Rufous-s. Towhee	173
Red-w. Blackbird	6217	Savannah Sparrow	179
Northern Oriole	502	Grasshopper Sparrow	6
Rusty Blackbird	8	Henslow's Sparrow	7(20,28)
Common Grackle	4121	Vesper Sparrow	14
Brown-h. Cowbird	712	Dark-eyed Junco	76
Scarlet Tanager	71	Chipping Sparrow	661
Cardinal	376	Field Sparrow	192
Rose-br. Grosbeak	368	White-cr. Sparrow	199
Indigo Bunting	97	White-thr. Sparrow	119
Evening Grosbeak	30	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Purple Finch	168	Swamp Sparrow	55
House Finch	124	Song Sparrow	1248

Total Species: 190

Total Individuals: 53766

Comments:

Common Loon - 2nd highest ever.

1946 - 48 individuals

1980 - 43 individuals

Prairie Warbler - highest ever

1941, 45, 47, 53, 71 and 72 - 1 individual

1946, 74 and 77 - 2 individuals

1978 - 3 individuals

1979 - 4 individuals

1980 - 6 individuals

House Finch - highest ever

1972 - 7 individuals

1976 - 8 individuals

1977 - 28 individuals

1978 - 30 individuals

1979 - 21 individuals

1980 - 124 individuals

Sections and Observers:

The compilers would like to thank all the section compilers and observers for their dedication and responsibility to the May Count even though the Canadian Holiday and other birding events are always on the same day as the May Count date. A sincere thank you! In the list that follows, compilers' names are underlined.

1. Fonthill, Ont. - Jerry Chapple, Richard Byron, Bobby Tomasi.
2. Thorold, Ont. - Not covered.
3. Wilson, N.Y. - Walter Klabunde, Harriette Klabunde.
4. Middleport, N.Y. - Paul Grimbale, Linda Grimbale.
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - Not covered.
6. Port Maitland, Ont. - Ed Williams, Wes Siegner.
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - Not covered.
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Denys Gardiner, Ralph Gardiner, Ronald Gardiner.
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - No report received.
10. Akron, N.Y. - Robert Wagner.
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Pauline Schwartz, Bob Schwartz, Audrey Harbett,  
Art Schaffner, Harold Mitchell, Stanley King,  
Janet Szndant, Brian Lewandowski.
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie Wendling, Anna Bauer, Ima Bill, Dorothy Hanner,  
Ray Franz, Tom Harper, Eileen Sexton, Gertrude  
Webster, Cy Wolfling, Bernadine Wolfling.



Volume 46, Number 6 - "Organization Activities" (con't.)

13. Batavia, N.Y. - Max Mason, Jane Mason, George Mahaney, David Keller, Don Thureau, Dave Thompson, Bob hull, Eileen Hull, David Whitcomb.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Lois Matlock, Peter Matlock.
15. Java, N.Y. - Dave Junkin, Esther Becker, Marion Bee, Bill Bogacki, Hans Kunze, Olga Rosche.
16. Angola, N.Y. - Not covered.
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - Wavel Barber, Maxine Barber, David Bigelow, Robert Bindig, Doris Binding.
18. Delevan, N.Y. - Don Clark, Jane Clark, Cattaraugus County Bird Club.
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club, Katherine Palmer, Faye Clancy, Velma Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Fish, Josephine Main, Marjorie Main, Edna Marvin, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mills, Jean Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Smith, Larry Wilson, Victor Carpenter, James Mullen, Ruth Gilman, Bette Hill.
20. Dunkirk, N.Y. - Morgan Jones.
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - No report received.
22. Sherman, N.Y. - No report received.
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - No report received.
24. Allegany S.P., N.Y. - Mary Forness, John Forness, Bill Forness, Celeste Skrzeczkowski, Jerry Skrzeczkowski.
25. Allegany, N.Y. - Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Mary Forness, John Forness, Dorothy Baker, Lucille Bordonaro, Stephan Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Alene Johnson, Rosamond and Carl Seagren, Regina and James Van Scoy.
26. Cuba, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Mary Jordan, Bruce and Bob Smalley, Sharon Baumgardner, Betty Compton, John Compton, Milford and Sylvia Foster, Margaret Hand, Alfred Voorhies.
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Doris Hurlburt, Lillian and Stella Simons, Marjorie Richmond, Celestia K. Abbott, Frances DeGroff, Mrs. Gordon Sanford, Christine Ferrand, Dolly Hawkins, Dr. Harry Spencer, Helen K. Apsey.

28. Alfred, N.Y. -

Allegany County Bird Club, Larry Chapman,  
Vivian Pitzrick, Erma Larson, Dorothy and Warren Bouck,  
Betsy Brooks, Glenn Bucher, Vivien Carr, Lois Chopman,  
Carla Cock, Harry and Larry Deverell, Ann and Pete  
Eisenhardt, Terry and Peter Finlay, Margaret and  
Clarence Klingensmith, Cathy MacDonald, Beverly Perry,  
Peggy and Danny Rase, Agnes and Everett Rhodes,  
Connor Stephens, Helen Thomas, Suzanne Wood,  
Dorothy Bayless, Esther Biehl, Lorna, Don, Sonya and  
Tara Brink, Ruby Carpenter, Ann Cathin, Susan, Carolyn  
and Jim Copenheaver, Phyllis Du Brevil, Jay and Louise  
Gibson, Nathan, David, and Ellen Hardy, Fay and Ben  
Heller, Viola Ide, Pauline Sanford, Violet Sharrett,  
Mrs. Robert Common, Dr. William Walker, Lou and Doris  
Burton, Clifford and Ruth Button, Raymond Pitzrick,  
Vera Brown, Evelyn Coats, Paul and Mary Alice Fuller,  
Claribel and Grey James, Martin and Genevieve McQueen,  
Ernest and Lynn Rositzke, Burnadean Stein, Kari Young,  
June Babcock, Mrs. Ira Brown, Carl Burdick, Mrs. Helen  
Graves, Mrs. Bruce Taggart, Mrs. Gordon Taggart.

Total Observers: 185

#### HAWK WATCH AT BEAMER MAY 1980

by Walter Klabunde

The months total of 2695 hawks was disappointingly low. Unfortunately there was no coverage on six days, only one of which was due to inclement weather. It is noted that 91% of the hawk sightings for the month were recorded in the first eleven days.

Two factors may have influenced the hawk flights after the 20th. For almost a week beginning with the 20th the sky was "murky" with the ash from the Mount St. Helens eruption. Also at that time very extensive forest fires in northern Ontario may have contributed to the same atmosphere, especially as we were subjected to northerly winds for 7 out of the 11 days from 19-29, May. There were very light winds the other four days. Not until the last two days of the month were the winds fresh and from the southwest.

An unusual experience occurred on 23, May when two broadwings were observed kettling over the gorge after coming in from the east. Upon gaining considerable height, as they normally do one after the other proceeded to soar out of sight in a south-easterly direction rather than the normal westerly direction. Maybe they were avoiding a possible disaster area!

Two noteworthy hawks were observed in the first three days. On the first a Merlin was sighted at Beamer, and on the third a Peregrine was sighted in Hamilton which unfortunately was missed at Beamer. To offset the poor



Volume 46, Number 6 - "Hawk Watch at Beamer May 1980" (con't.)

hawk flight we were given the opportunity to watch an Olive-sided Flycatcher spend over a week (21-30 May) near the parking lot at Beamer. Maybe it didn't have the urge to go north into the land with smoky atmosphere.

The following table shows the daily results for the month.

SUMMARY OF MAY 1980 GRIMSBY AREA HAWK WATCH

Date	Loc.	Hrs.	TV	SS	CH	RT	RS	BW	BE	MH	OS	PF	ML	AK	UH	TOTAL
1	B	8.3	1	27	1	15		27		1			1	3	2	78
2	B	8.0		28	1	5		28						1		63
3	H*	.2										1				
3	B	9.2	4	68				5							4	81
4	B	8.1	4	99		13	1	451	1 imm.	3				1	2	575
5	B	8.0	4	218	1	5	1	23		1				1	1	255
6	B	7.3	2	15		1										18
7	B	7.7		64		4		4								72
8	B	7.0		133	1	6		11		1	1					153
9	B	8.0		113		2		2						1		118
10	B	7.0	16	680	10	30		72	1 imm.	2				1	14	826
11	B	6.0	2	202		7		8		2					1	222
12	B	7.9		58	2	7		9								76
13	B	0	No Coverage -				Rain and Fog									0
14	B	6.8		2		3										5
15	B	7.8		17		1		1							1	20
16	B	7.9		8		10	1	42							2	63
17	B	0	No Coverage													0
18	B	0	No Coverage													0
19	B	7.5	1	1		10	2	8							5	27
20	B	6.0		6		1		1								8
21	B	7.5		3				2								5
22	B	6.8				1		1		1						3
23	B	4.7	1			1		3								5
24	B	0	No Coverage													0
25	B	0	No Coverage													0
26	B	7.9														0
27	B	5.0				1										1
28	B	5.7				3		1								4
29	B	5.9	2	1												3
30	B	5.8		4		5		4		1						14
31	B	0	No Coverage													0
Total		177.8	36	1748	16	131	5	703	2	12	1	1*	1	8	32	2695

\*P.F sighted in Hamilton - missed at Beamer (not counted in total)

NOTES

A Nesting Record of the Brown Creeper in Allegany County

On May 3, 1980 I was hiking at 7:50 A.M. in the oak-beech-hemlock woods west of Saunders' Pond, about six miles north of Scio, New York, elevation 1970 feet, latitude 42° 14' and longitude 77° 59'. Hearing a joyously beautiful two-part song, something like "see-see-see" (very high and thin) and concluding with a slightly lower-pitched warble, "tidledidlesee", I remembered it was made not by a warbler but by a now long familiar bird. A second singer repeated the song nearby. With 7 x 50 binoculars and sun at my back, I found one singer on the trunk of a tree. Peculiarly unafraid of me, the chickadee-sized bird with clear white breast, brown and white striped back and slender down-curved bill, appeared almost prehistoric. It flew to the base of a tree and spiraled its way toward the top, diligently searching the bark, probably for insects, and propping itself as it went with its stiff, sharp tail feathers. It then dropped to the base of another tree and worked its way upward again, now and then stopping momentarily to sing. We recognize this, of course, as a Brown Creeper (Certhia familiaris) with which I have been familiar many years.

Another bird of the same description dropped to a fallen tree and when it flew back to the side of an oak, it had bits of fine grass, or twigs or bark fibers in its beak! After a few short flights here and there, it went to a standing, dead five-inch oak and disappeared under a piece of loose bark, five and a half feet from the ground. With adrenaline by now pumping furiously, I sat down to watch about 35 feet away.

Soon the little bird reappeared to fly away, but within a minute was back with a bigger wad of what looked like strips of inner tree bark, some longer than the bird herself. For about ten minutes, at intervals of about a minute, the bird made successive trips to the nest with more material, usually pausing at the entrance an instant before dragging her burden inside. Then she left. I waited ten more minutes, but the singers had quieted down and there was no more activity.

We believe this to be a first documentation of this species' nest for Allegany County.

The Brown Creeper breeds from southern Alaska through Canada and the United States to Nicaragua in the west, and in the east from central Ontario and southern Quebec south through Indiana, New York and Long Island and in the highlands to North Carolina. In winter it may be found from central Canada south throughout the United States and in northern Mexico.

In Birds of New York State by Bull, the species is classified as "fairly common and widespread at higher elevations." It is easily located in Allegany County almost any time of year, preferring high mature forests where some dead trees still remain. More often detected by its faint, high-pitched, short lisping note, than by sight, the bird sings its warbler-like song ordinarily only during the nesting season.



The rarely discovered nest is usually placed from five to 16 feet from the ground, under a piece of loosened bark on a tree trunk and is firmly attached to the inside surface of the bark with the sides built upward forming a crescent. Where loose tree bark slabs are unavailable, nests have been built in knot holes or other holes in trees. On a foundation of small twigs wedged in place under the loose bark, is constructed the neat nest proper, of fine inner bark, spider web, moss, fern down, dry grass and sometimes feathers. With both adults incubating, the four to eight eggs hatch in about 12 days and the nestlings fledge in 13 to 14 days.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick  
Amity Lake  
Belmont, New York 14813

#### Prairie Warblers Back on Summer Territory

On May 22, 1980 about 7:00 A.M. in a young Norway Spruce plantation on Reddy Rd., Amity Twp., near Belmont, N.Y., about two miles north of Amity Lake, I heard a buzzy song that ascended in distinct separate notes up the chromatic scale, dying at the top. The singer, smaller than a House Sparrow, was in a large Hawthorne tree about 35 feet away, and with it was a similar bird, both moving around quickly among the lower branches and sometimes going into nearby spruces and then back to the thorn. When they saw me, they began scolding, exhibiting territorial behavior, and uttering soft short "whet" notes.

With 7 x 50 binoculars and the sun at my back, I could see on the singer a yellow patch around the eye and two black lines beginning at the needle like warbler bill, one extending through the eye and the second curving down around the lower side along the cheek. The other bird which did not sing, probably the female, was less contrastingly marked but followed the same pattern. The yellow underparts were heavily streaked with black on each side just beneath the white-barred wings. Upper parts and wings were dark olive green. Although light was excellent, I failed to note chestnut marks on the back of the male. I could hear another bird singing the same, distinctive, chromatic song not far from where I sat to watch this pair.

These were not Blue-winged Warblers, for the top of the head was olive, not yellow. The Blue-winged has a plain yellow breast and its song is a two-note "Whe-e-e ze-e-e", the second note lower. They were not Magnolia Warblers, for the eye patch was yellow, not black, and the breast stripes were not completely across the breast.

Having regularly seen and heard this species in this location during the past two summer seasons, I am confident that these birds are Prairie Warblers.

Vivian Mills Pitzrick

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

- October 8 - "St. David's Ponds Report." During the past summer, an extensive study of migratory shore birds was made at the St. David's cannery settling ponds. Study team member, Art Schaffner will report on the results of the study.
- October 22 - "Bird Carving." Dr. Richard O'Connor will present a program describing his activities in bird carving. He will discuss his methods and goals and display examples of his work.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- October 26 - Sunday field trip to Oak Orchard and the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Our leader will be Dick Christensen (632-7762). We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Citibank in the Transitown Plaza at Main St. (Rte. 5) and Transit Rd. (Rte. 78), Clarence, N.Y., or at 9:30 a.m. at the Cayuga Pool of the Iroquois NWR.
- November 16 - Sunday field trip along the Niagara River for gulls and waterfowl. This joint trip with the Genesee Ornithological Society will be led locally by Dr. Robert Andrle (896-5200) along with Gordon Meade of the G.O.S. (248-2032). We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Oakland Rural Cemetery or join the group at 9:30 a.m. at Old Fort Niagara.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebchazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

VOLUME 46

JULY 1980

NUMBER 7

## THE MONTH

June was a month of sharp contrasts in weather patterns. The month started with a week of unseasonably cool weather followed by a brief period of warm days terminated by heavy thunderstorms overnight on the 8th. The next four days were characterized by record low temperatures with snow flurries south of Buffalo on June 11th. Unseasonably cool, wet and cloudy weather alternated with sunny and warm days for the rest of the month. The average temperature for the month was  $61.9^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ ,  $3.8^{\circ}$  below normal while rainfall measured 5.82 inches, 3.59 inches above the norm. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

June is traditionally the month of the lull in the bird watcher's year. With the end of the spring migration and the nesting season at its peak, many observers retire from the field until interest is revived by the autumn passage of the shorebirds beginning in mid-July or when the chilly nights of August bring the first passerine migrants from the Canadian Shield. This year, however, the New York Breeding Bird Survey was inaugurated. It is a cooperative endeavor of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society and the New York State Museum. Briefly stated, the purpose of the survey is the production of an atlas mapping the distribution and abundance of breeding bird species in New York State. Hopefully, it will increase the knowledge of what species of birds breed in the state and where they breed. Because of the paucity of observers seriously interested in this phenomena, heretofore such knowledge has been spotty. It was therefore, proposed to the Executive Committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs in 1979 that such a project be undertaken and the proposal received an enthusiastic approval. To accomplish the basic objective, a grid system was superimposed on the ten regional areas of the Federation in New York State, dividing it into 10 km. x 10 km. map squares. Each square receives an identifying number and is further subdivided



Volume 46, Number 7 - "The Month" (con't.)

into four equal size square atlas blocks, 5 km. x 5 km. in dimensions and designated A,B,C, and D. The block is the basic unit for conducting a breeding bird survey. The object is to record every species nesting in the block, confirming as many as possible by observing the adult birds, eggs and/or young at the nest and identifying recently fledged young. Other methods of confirmation of nesting activity include observations of adult birds carrying food to a nest or carrying fecal sacs away. Dr. Robert Andrle, coordinator for our area, Region #1 in the State Federation's reporting system has done an excellent job in recruiting over 96 participants for the 1980 survey in Western New York. The response has been most heartening. Among the interesting birds reported was a singing male Kentucky Warbler in the Town of Carrollton in Cattaraugus County. The bird was seen by Dr. Stephen Eaton, the dozen of Southern Tier bird watchers, on May 18th, 1980 in a mature broad-leaf woods in the Allegany River valley. Dr. Eaton suspects a small breeding population of this previously undocumented species in our study area. Other Carolinian species found in this grid block include Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and White-eyed Vireo. Systematic investigation under the impetus of this project cannot help but yield equally exciting data on the status of our breeding birds in the next few years. Bob Andrle advises that in its initial phase, the survey has revealed several new nesting localities for the Yellow-rumped Warbler, now elevated to the status of a locally common summer resident.

Interesting records for June include a singing male Lincoln's Sparrow in the peat bog remanent at Wainfleet, Ontario, just north of Port Colborne, several times during the month. An immature Bald Eagle was observed at Bear Lake in Chautauqua County on June 7th and 8th. On June 17th, a pair of Orchard Orioles was observed at their pendulous nest near the tip of a bough fourteen feet up in a spruce tree on Balcom Drive in the village of East Aurora. Nesting records for this species in our study area are extremely rare. Later in the month, the adult birds were observed feeding a fledged young. Of special interest is the annual census of the Great Blue Heron colony at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. This year, over 441 nests were counted, a sizeable increase over last year in this, the largest Great Blue Heron colony in western New York. Four Great Egrets continued to be seen at the refuge in June. Finally, two nests and several singing males of the rare Prothonotary Warbler and a nest of the Turkey Vulture were reported from this locale during the month.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS - JULY

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.



Volume 46, Number 7 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't)

\* - Indicates first record for the year

F - Indicates first record for the migration

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	June			
Common Loon	23-25	1	Iroquois NWR	Schrader
D-cr. Cormorant	18	8	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Great Egret	3, 15	1, 2	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Gadwall	12	2	Times Beach, Bflo.	Andrle, Byron
	18	7	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al.
Pintail	3	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	18	1	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
American Wigeon	12	17	Times, Beach, Bflo.	Andrle, Byron
Northern Shoveler	3	4	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Lesser Scaup	18	2	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Common Merganser	21	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Goshawk	1, 28	1, 1	Gowanda	Andrle, et al
Cooper's Hawk	7, 17	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
	29	1	Orchard Park	Andrle, Foster
Sharp-sh. Hawk	29	1	Dayton	Chapples
Bald Eagle	6, 8	1, 1	Bear Lake	Rew, Buck
			(immature bird)	
Greater Black-b. Gull	18	14	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Bonaparte's Gull	18	2	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Caspian Tern	18	1	Mohawk Island, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Olive-s. Flycatcher	2L	16	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Tufted Titmouse	4-30	1-2	Elma	Danner
Winter Wren	1-18	1	Town of Shelby	Schrader
Carolina Wren	1-30	1	Town of Shelby	Schrader
Short-b. Marsh Wren	29	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Mockingbird	3	1	Elma	Forsberg
Gray-ch. Thrush	6L	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Eastern Bluebird	1-30	35	Amity	Pitzrick
			(fledged young birds)	
	1	1	Tonawanda Indian R.	McKales
	21	1	Conewango	Chapple
	21, 28	2, 1	Sheldon	Rosches
Golden-cr. Kinglet	6-28	4	Alfred	Brooks
			(1A, 4YO)	
	8	4	Iroquois NWR	McKales
*Prothonotary Warbler	2	2	'Oak Orchard'	Rosches
	3	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Nashville Warbler	1-30	1-4	Alfred	Brooks
	2-30	2-5	Amity	Pitzrick
*Brewster's Warbler	26, 28	2, 1	Amity	Pitzrick



Volume 46, Number 7 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>June</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	7,10	1	Cheektowaga	Schwartz
Yellow-r. Warbler	1-30	1-3	Alfred & vicinity	Brooks
		(all territorial males)		
	2-30	1-2	Amity	Pitzrick
Prairie Warbler	1-30	1-2	Alfred	Brooks
	18	1	Alfred	Brooks
	1-30	2	Alfred	Brooks
		(all territorial males at different locations)		
	2-30	2-4	Amity	Pitzrick
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	2	Wales	Rosche
<u>House Finch</u>	1-30	3-4	Alfred	Brooks
	1-30	8-10	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	1-30	6-14	Belmont	Burtens
	2-29	1-3	Buffalo	Schaffner
	19-30	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	20	5	Jamestown	Rew
	22	1	Middleport	Krogs
Lincoln's, Sparrow	29	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andre, et al
White-thr. Sparrow	11,23	2,3	Alfred	Brooks

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....242

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue..... 2

Total for year.....244

HAWK MIGRATION ON SOUTH SHORE OF LAKE ONTARIO - SPRING 1980

by Walter Klabunde

A total of 350 daily report forms, 288 days plus 62 auxiliary lookout reports, were turned in from the four areas on Lake Ontario, namely, Derby Hill (DH), Braddock Bay (BB), Grimsby (g) and Vinemount (V). At DH and BB the east flight is observed, while at G and V the hawks move west. The reports indicate approximately 72,000 hawks were recorded in the combined east and west flights. This is about 3,000 lower than last year's count. This may be significant, particularly because the improved coverage at G would naturally be expected to raise the count of the westward flight.

To some extent the totals are subject to weather conditions. Except for two days, the winds were unfavorable (northerly) most days from 12 May to the end of June. The high percentage of northerly winds held back the hawks, and many of those that came through probably flew inland away from the lookouts.

Earlier, 26 April was an exceptional day when each lookout reported record numbers of Broadwings, (See Table II). 10 or 11 May saw a smaller flood

of Sharpshins come through DH, BB and G (701, 2060 and 680 respectively). Then after a nineteen day lull, 31 May produced the last wave of 4,000 Broadwings that put the May count over the top for BB. This front came through DH on 31 May where they recorded 4162 hawks that day. Unfortunately they failed to man the lookout the next day to get the last good day of the season. G failed to man the lookout on 31 May although the day before produced only 14 hawks.

The distribution of hawks by species in each area for the season is shown in Table I. Table II shows the date of 1st observation, peak flight date with numbers, and the last date each species was recorded at the three areas which operated regularly.

A rundown on each species compared to previous counts showed that Turkey Vultures increased in the westward flight while the east flight was the same as last year's high. Goshawks and Sharpshins were low in spite of higher counts at G. Cooper's and Red tails showed increases in both east and west flights. Red shouldered's statistics were peculiar inasmuch as all lookouts except BB found them in record numbers. Yet the decline at BB was marked (down 35%). Broadwings were definitely down in spite of record numbers observed at DH and BB. The eastward flight was actually down (3000) because of duplication of numbers this year. Furthermore, the west flight showed a drop of about 1000. The two Swainsons reported at DH doubled the previous record. Roughlegs showed a marked decline in both east and west flights (over 50%), probably due to the mild winter.

Although eagle counts were down at both DH and BB, when taking timing and age into account the total Golden Eagle count was 17 adults plus 11 immatures, one over last year's count. On the same basis the total Bald Eagle count was 13 adults plus 14 immatures, five under last year's count. There was a marked decline in Harriers and Ospreys, in spite of higher counts in the west flight. Harriers were down 20% while Ospreys dropped 60%. The Gyrfalcon recorded at DH is the first since 1978. Peregrine Falcons were down 50%. Merlins and Kestrels were both off slightly, 10-15%, which may not be significant.

Except for Turkey Vultures, Coopers, Redtails and Redshoulders which gave higher counts all others appear to show some decline; Goshawks and Roughlegs possibly because of wintering conditions. The drop in Ospreys could be serious; that of the Harriers may be cyclic. Unless the others were down due to weather factors there may be trouble ahead, which only the future can tell. Join us at Grimsby next spring to unravel this tale.

4923 Creek Rd. - Lewiston, N.Y.



Table I

Summary of 1980 Hawk Watching at Lookouts on South Shore of Lake Ontario

<u>Species</u>	<u>Derby Hill</u>	<u>Braddock Bay</u>	<u>Grimsby</u>	<u>Vinemount</u>
Turkey Vulture	948	1626	666*	353*
Unid. Accipiter	15	17	29	35
Goshawk	35-	22-	5	0
Sharp-Shinned	7974-	7714*	4696*	835*
Cooper's Hawk	618*	142+	140*	55*
Unid. Buteo	529	581	311	148
Red-tailed	7827*	2823*	3009*	850*
Red-shouldered	1208*	283-	722*	80
Broad-winged	34233*	24204*	4933-	2813*
Swainson's	2*	0	0	0
Rough-legged	247-	231-	38-	6
Golden Eagle	18	8-	3+	1
Bald Eagle	12	14-	8*	1
Northern Harrier	520-	437-	75*	14*
Osprey	275-	107-	24*	7*
Unid. Falcon	1	2	2	1
GyrFalcon	1	0	0	0
Peregrine	1-	3-	0	0
Merlin	12-	6-	1	0
Am. Kestrel	421-	536-	104+	28
Unid. Raptor	<u>0</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>27</u>
Total	54,897	38,800*	14,936*	5,254*
Total Days	85	127	76	16
Total Hours	675	638	529	83
Period	19 Feb- 6 Jun	24Feb-30Jun	1Mar-30May	15Mar-4May

\*Record high.

-Marked drop

+Increase over 1979

Table II

First, Peak and Last Sighting

Species/Lookout	Derby Hill			Braddock Bay			Grimsby		
	1st	Peak	Last	1st	Peak	Last	1st	Peak	Last
Turkey Vulture	3/10	4/7-213	5/31	3/23	4/7-240	6/26	3/19	4/5-310*	5/28
Goshawk	3/6	3/28-5	5/2	3/20	4/2,4-5	5/1	3/7	-	4/17
Sharp-shinned	3/10	4/8-1133	6/6	3/19	4/11-2060	6/13	3/18	5/10-680	5/30
Cooper's Hawk	3/10	4/8-74	5/31	3/19	4/4-20	5/24	3/1	4/6-20	5/12
Red-tailed	2/20	3/20-1418	6/6	2/24	4/4-482	5/26	3/1	3/20-436	5/30
Red-shouldered	3/10	3/20-357	5/31 <sup>o</sup>	3/10	3/20-109	4/20	3/4	3/20-146	5/19
Broad-winged	4/8	4/26-14,301*	6/6	4/17	4/26-5,567	6/26	4/17	4/26-2,569*	5/30
Rough-legged	2/20	4/8-27	5/3	2/24	4/4-36	5/15	3/3	4/13-4	4/30
Golden Eagle	3/19	3/28-5	5/3	4/1	5/3-2	6/1	4/2	4/2-2	4/8
Bald Eagle	3/6	3/28-5	5/31	3/25	5/15-2	5/31	3/18	-	5/10
Northern Harrier	3/10	4/8-85	6/6	2/25	4/4-42	6/12	3/19	4/6-8	5/30
Osprey	4/4	4/26-42	5/31	4/6	5/31-7	6/7	4/6	4/11,19-4	5/8
Merlin	4/1	4/20,30-2	5/11	4/6	-	5/7	5/1	-	5/1
Amer.Kestrel	3/10	4/8-91	6/6	3/11	4/7-221	6/14	3/6	4/5-14	5/10

\* Record high

<sup>o</sup>Late Date

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY MADE DIFFICULT

by  
Robert W. Brock

My plan had been formulated as carefully and completely as one can be when conditions are not entirely known. Hours had been spent in preparing equipment and in the construction of a blind in which to gain a measure of invisibility in the presence of the quarry. Then came a long drive into the country and finally the loading of many pounds of gear onto my body in two packs, one in back and one in front, plus steel poles for the blind, and a heavy tripod. I hiked into Deer Lick Sanctuary and finally arrived near the spot where I intended to photograph the activities of a pair of Goshawks and their offspring. The path to a



site near the nest had been carefully chosen on a previous visit. My plan was to approach the site quietly, erect the blind, and await the action at the nest.

Well, we all know the old line about "the best laid plans". The relative quiet of the forest was suddenly shattered by the loud and close screaming of "kak, kak, kak, kak" of a Goshawk, succeeded by the not too distant follow-up of its mate. The afternoon skirmish was on!

Knowing that all chance to work undetected was now gone, I proceeded to my work site on the hillside above the nest tree and between several small evergreens. As I erected my blind, the big birds raised a terrible din, rushing from tree to tree, crying their warning to me, and while doing so, carefully watching every step of my attempt to become hidden. On several occasions both birds made close passes to me, with the female being only slightly more distant and cautious.

After having mounted my camera and trained by 1000 mm lens on the single young Goshawk huddled in the nest, I noticed that the adult birds had become quieter with only occasional bursts of protest. Very briefly I deluded myself into believing that the blind must be working. That fantasy was erased by the sudden realization that the male Goshawk was sitting on a dead snag in plain sight less than 30 yards behind me, watching very intently. I began alternately photographing the young bird in the nest and the observer at my back.

After an extended interval, I decided to confront the Goshawks openly because it became obvious they were not going to return to normal activity at the nest site. I took my second camera and left the blind. The male Goshawk changed location. I relocated him and began slowly approaching the spot where he was perched on a horizontal branch, photographing as I went. It was amazing how close he allowed me to approach before he flew. After he made his move, I turned and walked directly toward the nest tree. At this point, the encounter became more serious. As I approached the nest, the Goshawks became more vocal, made low passes through the woods and circled around me. As I moved slowly ahead I kept careful watch on the birds. Suddenly the male swooped from a high perch in a dive that was unmistakably directed at my person. The memory of that screaming, unwavering approach still gives me chills. I faced my challenger and at the last second waved my hands wildly. The bird veered upward, passing over me by about four feet. Fear being the catalyst of my good sense, I returned with deliberate speed to my blind. The birds again calmed down but there was no doubt in my mind that they were perched nearby watching me closely. The question became, who was stalking whom! As time wore on, some activity in the nest allowed me to finish exposing a complete roll of film. The young bird, while not very active, was making a somewhat better presentation of itself. I clicked away. The last of one roll of film coincided with the return of heavy clouds and my light was leaving. I started to pack up.

The renewed open activity on my part had a predictable effect on my neighbor. He moved up onto a higher perch just out of my sight and screamed with renewed vigor. I loaded myself with gear, adjusted my hat and started for the car. My intuition told me to keep one eye on the source of the incessant



screaming and it proved to be a good precaution. As I topped a small hill, the Goshawk dove down at me once again and if I read his eyes correctly, he was even more serious than before. My brain calculated his flight path against my height and informed me I was too tall. I dropped to my knees leaving my hat briefly suspended somewhere above me. The bird passed very close! Too close!

I quickly moved back to the trail while the Goshawk continued to dog my steps for some distance, screaming epithets at me but no longer attempting any close range maneuvers. I found myself quite weary on my return hike, partially from my heavy load but more so, I suspect, from the excitement of my experience. I had invaded another creature's domain and had been shown no hospitality. I had accomplished what I had come to do, while not in the manner in which I had expected to do it, and in retrospect I know that both sides felt a sense of victory after the day's encounter.

#### Good News Concerning

#### The Great Blue Heron In New York State

--Scientists at Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology have a pleasant enough puzzle to solve: For some reason -- and apparently without much help from humans -- the number of nesting pairs of Great Blue Herons in the marshes and woodlands of New York State appears to be increasing.

If ornithologists can determine why the birds are doing so well in New York, they may be able to help other areas of the country where the species continues to decline.

And if the herons are, in fact, moving their nesting colonies in response to some factor such as acid rain, the location of the birds may prove to be a valuable indicator for monitoring environmental quality.

Standing four feet tall on their spindly legs and spreading their wings six to seven feet as they soar and glide, the long-necked birds with the rakish plumes on their white heads seem to make people feel good just to watch them. That may account for the success Donald A. McCrimmon Jr. has had in recruiting non-professional observers throughout the state to report sites of nesting colonies.

Although abundant in the last century, only 41 Great Blue Heron colonies were reported in New York in the 1960s. Recently, the National Audubon Society placed the species on its "Blue List," indicating that the future of the birds is of special concern, according to McCrimmon, who serves as director of the Ithaca laboratory's Data Records Program and assistant professor of wildlife science. Concerned that pesticide residues were harming Great Blue Herons, the research biologist began surveying nesting colonies in the state in the mid-1970s.

11/77 Nature for Photographers



He found that the number of colonies was not only increasing, but that the birds were spreading from the north-south "heron belt" in the central portion of the state and that the average number of nests within colonies had more than doubled. McCrimmon, who has just completed an aerial survey of the state, reports at least 90 colonies active in the 1970s -- with as many as 456 nests -- in virtually all areas but southeastern New York and Long Island.

The birds appear to be moving their nesting sites from swamps and marshes to upland forests despite the fact that the demand for firewood has made the 50 to 100-foot trees, where the herons assemble platforms of twigs to raise their young, a sought-after commodity.

At the end of a food chain that begins with aquatic plants, the Great Blue Herons were thought to be potentially susceptible to pesticide poisoning. "The Great Blue Herons will eat fish, amphibians, reptiles, and rats -- just about anything that wanders across their path that they think they can get down their throats," says McCrimmon.

Residues of DDT and other pesticides had been found in the eggshells of the herons, and the shells were becoming thinner in comparison to those of the 1930s and 40s.

"But we haven't seen any evidence that the herons were negatively impacted by pesticide contamination," the researcher says. "We now believe that the pesticide problem was not the most important thing that hurt the birds, but rather, it was draining of swamps and encroachment of human activity. Agriculture has been a dominant force. A tremendous amount of land was cleared."

Reports from Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio indicate that the species continues to decline in those areas, McCrimmon notes. "Nobody is sure what is happening in the Northeast. The population size may be down in Vermont. There are reports that numbers are declining in the Southeast, in Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia, particularly in the Atlantic coastal plain."

Also uncertain is the status of the Great Blue Heron population in Florida, where the birds which breed and spend the summer in the Northeast may spend the winter. "The human population of Florida is exploding," says McCrimmon, "and the threat to the habitat is a real one. Many swamps and wetlands have been drained." Recently, Florida state lawmakers recognized the problem of shrinking wildlife habitat and imposed restraints on development and wetland drainage.

The obvious question is why the Great Blue Heron seems to love New York, and the National Audubon biologist, who is two years into a formal, three-year survey of populations, aims to find the answer with the help of remote sensing data from satellites.

"We will now start looking at land use patterns by studying satellite photos of the state and trying to interpret them," McCrimmon says. "We will consider the proportion of agricultural land, wetland and upland."

Beginning in the western part of the state where the great blue herons are making steady gains, McCrimmon will compare active colony sites with unused -- but seemingly suitable -- sites and try to determine why the birds live where they do.

"Food may be more of a factor than nesting habitat," he speculates, "but there may be something about the habitat in which colonies are found."

A lack of food may account for the relatively small number of heron sightings in New York's Adirondack Mountains, where acid rains from fossil fuel combustion to the west have rendered more than 100 lakes devoid of fish. If McCrimmon is correct that Great Blue Herons go where food is found, the species could become an indicator of environmental quality, a sort of early warning system when the environment is being degraded and a herald of good news when the quality improves.

Such a monitoring system would be inexpensive (only about \$2,000 has been spent on the heron survey so far) and would continue to depend on the participation of non-professional observers across the state.

Persons who think they have spotted a Great Blue Heron nesting area are encouraged to contact McCrimmon by telephone at (607)256-5056 or by writing the Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. The researcher will add the information to the list of sites to be visited by the next aerial survey, beginning in the Spring of 1981. Nests may be located as much as six miles from open water. As migratory birds, the great blue herons are protected by federal as well as state laws.

Flying 50 feet above tree top level with binoculars and cameras, the Cornell researchers are able to document habitation patterns of the shy birds and sometimes even count the number of eggs in the nest (three per season is the usual number). The task can be monotonous, McCrimmon concedes, and he is beginning to see herons in his sleep, but he knows the research is important.

"If the Great Blue Heron population is increasing in New York state, we'd really like to know why."

Cornell University News Bureau  
Ithaca, New York 14853

#### Dial-A-Bird Reports Requested

Dial-A-Bird (896-1271), the museum's automatic telephone tape-recorded news of bird sightings and activities, operating for over 10 years, has been very popular, receiving up to one hundred calls a day. The BOS was instrumental in establishing the service, yet to be most interesting and informative, it must be supplied with enough observations. Too often this is not the case and we do not have sufficient material to program it. Sometimes we learn later of interesting records that could have reached more birders. I ask members and all birders to please remember to call in to myself or Art Clark at the museum (896-5200) so that we can improve Dial-A-Bird as a source of information.

Dr. Robert F. Andrle



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

December 10 - "Clark's Nutcracker" - No not the bird, but an identification quiz put together by A. Clark. Test your skill and enjoy some refreshments after this last meeting before the holidays.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

December 14 - Niagara Loop trip. Leaders: Bill Burch 773-3690 and Pauline Schwartz 832-5369. We will meet at the Vermont and Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 a.m. or at the first parking lot south of the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie, Ontario at 8:15 a.

December 21 - Christmas Bird Count, centered on Grand Island. Compiler, Dr. Kenneth Balmas. Call Ken (759-8006) or Esther Becker (537-2592) to volunteer your services for this important count

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebchazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14227.

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JAN 28 1981

# THE PROTHONOTARY

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THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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VOLUME 46

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NUMBER 8

The weather in July was hot, humid and wet. The average temperature was  $71.7^{\circ}$  (F),  $1.6^{\circ}$  above the norm. Rainfall measured 3.55 inches, 0.57 inches above average. 1.33 inches of rain were recorded in heavy precipitation on July 22nd. (Meteorological data as recorded at the Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The first migrant shorebirds of the season were reported from the cannery ponds at St. David's, Ontario where six Lesser Yellowlegs were seen by Art Schaffner and Walter Klabunde on July 4th. These astute field observers volunteered their services in a society research project whereby these ponds were visited at least twice weekly during the autumn passage of the shorebirds this year. Bird-watching at the cannery ponds is a movable feast, dependent on the water levels and usually most rewarding on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when the water has been diverted to adjacent fields for irrigation purposes. This year, for the first time, the west pond behind the cannery was the shallowest and the most productive. A glance at 'Noteworthy Records' in this issue will illustrate the excellent coverage provided by Schaffner, Klabunde and others in July. Mention should be made here, however, of the 1900 Semi-palmated Sandpipers reported by Harold Axtell from the ponds on July 31st, a record number for a single concentration of this species in the B.O.S. study area. With the painstaking care for which he is justly famous, Dr. Axtell counted the flock twice before satisfying himself as to the accuracy of his estimate. There were also reports of at least three rare Western Sandpipers at St. David's in July. Another interesting site for migrating shorebirds and waders is the diked disposal area adjacent to the Small Boat Harbor on the South Buffalo waterfront which has become a regular stop for local bird watchers during the summer and autumn months.

On July 11th, Robert Andrle and Robert Brock conducted a census of the Fish Creek woods in the Town of Somerset in Niagara County, a rather typical broad-leaf woodland habitat of the Lake Ontario plain. It was thus with more than a little surprise that they observed a White-throated Sparrow in a grove of saplings. The bird was not singing and there was no evidence of nesting. On July 24th, Andrle and Richard Byron discovered an Eared Grebe in breeding plumage at Erie Beach, Ontario. It was the first summer record for this rare colymbid in our study area. New summer locations for the Yellow-rumped Warbler in western New York include a pine-spruce plantation on Genesee Road in the



Town of Sardinia in Erie County where a singing male was observed by Bob Andrle and Marcy Foster on July 17th. Three more birds of this species were seen by Andrle and Foster in the Harry E. Dobson Memorial State Forest in the Town of Mansfield in Cattaraugus County where the warblers were flying about in a large plantation of mature spruces interspersed with pines.

Other interesting records received during July include fourteen Greater Black-backed Gulls among the thousands of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls on Mohawk Island in Lake Erie on July 27th. On July 13th, Frances Rew counted 28 Greater Black-backed Gulls in Dunkirk Harbor. At least five Great Egrets continued to summer at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge during the month.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Ave., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year

F - Indicates first record for the migration

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Eared Grebe	July 24	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Double-cr. Cormorant	27	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner, Clarke
Great Egret	6,13	5,5	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	13	4	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner
Black-cr. Night Heron	11	1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner
	12	25	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Foster
Gadwall	21	7	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clarke
Pintail	23	10	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	24	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, et al
Green-w. Teal	11,16	12,12	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Common Goldeneye	27	2	Rose Hill, Ont.	Andrle, Foster
Common Merganser	23	6	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell
Sharp-sh. Hawk	7	1	Gasport	McKales
	13	1	Town of Sardinia	Andrle, Foster
	23	1	Town of Evans	Andrle, Hauser
	24	1	Orchard Park	Andrle, Foster

Volume 46, Number 8 "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Cooper's Hawk	July 1-31	1-2	Amity	Pitzrick
	3,12	1,1	Orchard Park	Andrle, Foster
Ruddy Turnstone	21F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	25	2	Rockpoint Prov. Pk.	Axtell
	27	3	Mohawk Is., Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
	27	10	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
Common Snipe	4	1	St. David's Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Upland Sandpiper	13	27	Clarence	McKales
	27	12	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell, Gardiners
Solitary Sandpiper	9F	2	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	12	1	West Seneca	Andrle, Foster
Greater Yellowlegs	3F,7	2,16	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	6	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Lesser Yellowlegs	4F,9	6,5	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	12	130	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Foster
Red Knot	23F	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell, Gardiner
	24	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
	25	3	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell
	27	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Andrle, Foster
Least Sandpiper	9F,11	1,3	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	23	25	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Pectoral Sandpiper	18F,23	1,1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	27	17	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner, Clarks
Short-b. Dowitcher	3F	3	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	8	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
	20	145	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell
Stilt Sandpiper	27F	1	Mohawk Is., Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
	27F	2	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
	30	31	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Axtell
Semipalm Sandpiper	1F,3	1,2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	19	290	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell
	23	190	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	31	1900	St. David's, Ont.	Axtell
*Western Sandpiper	20	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell, McLaughlin
Sanderling	21F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	27	6	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner, Clarks
Wilson's Phalarope	20F-30	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Axtell et al
	20F	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Andrle et al (BOS)
	30	1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Gr. Black-b. Gull	13	28	Dunkirk Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	21,24	9,7	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	27	14	Mohawk Is., Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
	30	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Schaffner
	30	2	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner, Axtell



Volume 46, Number 8 - "Noteworthy Records" (con.t.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Bonaparte's Gull	July 24F	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner et al
	27	1	Mohawk Is., Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
	27	6	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Clarks
Caspian Tern	24	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner et al
	27	1	Stromness, Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
	30	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner, Axtell
Tufted Titmouse	1,20	1,2	Spring Brook	Danner
Carolina Wren	26,31	1,2	Spring Brook	Danner
Long-b. Marsh Wren	27	8	Stromness, Ont.	Schaffner, Clarks
Short-b. Marsh Wren	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	McKales
	9,20	1,5	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle et al
		(1 ad. + 4Y fledged)		
Swainson's Thrush	25-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Eastern Bluebird	3	4	Town of Colden	Becker
	13	3	Town of Sardinia	Andrle, Foster
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3,17	4,6	Alfred	Brooks
	13	3	Town of Sardinia	Andrle, Foster
	19	3	Town of Mansfield	Andrle, Foster
Brewster's Warbler	12	1	Town of Clarence	Andrle, Foster
	18	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Yellow-r. Warbler	3-25	1-5	Alfred	Brooks
	7	1	Amity	Pitzrick
	17	1	Town of Sardinia	Andrle, Foster
	19	3	Town of Mansfield	Andrle, Foster
Prairie Warbler	7,17	2,1	Amity	Pitzrick
	15	4	Alfred	Brooks
		(2 adults, 2 young in nest)		
House Finch	1-31	1-4	Amity	Pitzrick
	1-31	1-3	Alfred	Brooks
	1-31	8-12	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	9-20	2	Buffalo	Schaffner
	17-31	1-2	Buffalo	Schaffner
	27	1	Middleport	Krog et al
	11	1	Town of Somerset	Brock

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....241

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue..... 2

Total for year.....243

## ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey 1980

This was the 14th year that members of the B.O.S. and their associates have cooperated with the Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Breeding Bird Counts in their 24 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile 50 stop runs. Unfortunately this report covers only 15 of the 19 routes normally assigned to us. These are described in Prothonotary Vol. 34, No. 10 page 112 (1968). By error one of the routes was mistakenly assigned (by the F&W Service) to some outsider. However three other regular cooperators failed to make a report. Since comparative numbers are essential in this project, totals had to be adjusted to nineteen routes based on past data for purposes of comparison. The following are the cooperators and their assistants who provided the data for this report.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Route</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
001	Dunnville	no report	
045	Phillip's Creek	Doris Burton	Lou. L. Burton
046	Swain	Elizabeth W. Brooks	Clarence Klingensmith
052	Mt. Morris	Harriette Klabunde	Walter Klabunde
053	Hamburg	Mike Zebehazy	Peggie Daniels
054	West Seneca	Marie Wendling	Margaret Wendling
055	Gainesville	Robert F. Andrie	Marcy N. Foster
056	Cattaraugus	no report	
057	East Java	no report	
058	Castile	Harriette Klabunde	Walter Klabunde
059	Randolph	Stephen W. Eaton	Ellen E. Eaton
060	Centerville	no report	
061	Sheridan	Frances M. Rew	Lois Buck
062	Cherry Hill	Robert A. Sundell	
063	Nahsville	Robert M. Wagner	Joan Wagner
064	St. Johnsburg	Alice M. McKale	Willard McKale
065	E. Youngstown	Harriette	Walter Klabunde
066	Byron	Jane B. Mason	Max Mason
111	S. Vandalia	Regina N. VanScoy	James S. VanScoy

The summary of the counts submitted is shown in Table I. The totals and percentage of routes in which each species were recorded are for the fifteen routes. However the status ratings are based on totals adjusted to 19 routes based on past data for the missing routes. Although this may have distorted the ratings of a few species it was the only way to get away from lowering the status of many species when disregarding over 20% of the birds that would normally have been counted.



The status notation is indicated after the species name. After arranging the totals of the species for the 14 years in numerical order, where this years total was among the top three the status symbol is H (high). L (low) signifies the total was among the three lowest, while N (normal) places the total among the middle four numbers. The two between N and H are designated as N+ (above normal), while N- (below normal) indicates the position between N and L.

TABLE 1

Summary of 1980 F & W Cooperative Breeding Bird Runs.

<u>Species &amp; Rating</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>%Runs</u>	<u>Species &amp; Rating</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>%Runs</u>
Gr. Blue Heron	H	17	67	Winter Wren	H	1	7
Green Heron	N	14	40	Mockingbird	H	2	7
Mallard	N	28	53	Gray Catbird	H	224	100
Wood Duck	N	2	7	Brown Thrasher	N-	23	67
Turkey Vulture	N	1	7	American Robin	N	1288	100
Sharp-sh. Hawk	H	2	13	Wood Thrush	N	147	100
Cooper's Hawk	H	1	7	Hermit Thrush	N	2	13
Red-tailed Hawk	L	4	27	Veery	N-	44	53
Red-should. Hawk	L	2	13	Eastern Bluebird	N-	3	7
Broad-wing. Hawk	H	2	7	Golden-cr. Kinglet	H	3	7
American Kestrel	L	10	27	Cedar Waxwing	H	192	87
Ruffed Grouse	N	1	13	Starling	L	1567	100
Ring-n. Pheasant	L	101	7	Yellow-thr. Vireo	N	2	13
Turkey	N	1	40	Solitary Vireo	N	2	13
Killdeer	N	179	100	Red-eyed Vireo	L	128	100
Upland Sandpiper	N	7	13	Warbling Vireo	N+	57	67
Spotted Sandpiper	N-	7	13	Blue-w. Warbler	H	13	27
Ring-b. Gull	H	796	7	Nashville Warbler	N	1	7
Rock Dove	N+	304	100	Yellow Warbler	H	339	100
Mourning Dove	H	398	100	Magnolia Warbler	H	9	7
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	N+	4	27	Yellow-r. Warbler	H	2	7
Black-b. Cuckoo	N	10	47	Bl.-thr. Gr. Warbler	H	27	33
Barred Owl	N+	2	13	Blackburn. Warbler	N+	8	13
Common Nighthawk	H	1	7	Chestnut-s. Warbler	L	12	33
Chimney Swift	N	48	60	Ovenbird	H	35	47
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	H	6	27	La. Waterthrush	H	1	7
Belted Kingfisher	N+	15	53	Mourning Warbler	N+	12	33
Common Flicker	N-	54	100	Common Yellowthroat	H	213	100
Pileated Woodpecker	N	2	13	Yellow-br. Chat	H	1	7
Red-headed Wkpk. r.	N	3	20	Canada Warbler	N	6	20
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	H	7	20	Amer. Redstart	L	13	40
Hairy Woodpecker	L	1	7	House Sparrow	N	1013	100
Downy Woodpecker	N+	27	80	Bobolink	N	309	100
Eastern Kingbird	N+	69	100	E. Meadowlark	L	261	100

Volume 46, Number 8 - "Table I" (cont!t!)

<u>Species &amp; Rating</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Runs</u>	<u>Species &amp; Rating</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Runs</u>
Gr.Crest.Flycatcher N+	32	73	Red-w. Blackbird L	2317	100
Eastern Phoebe N-	24	53	Northern Oriole L	85	93
Willow Flycatcher L	44	80	Common Grackle N-	1247	100
Alder Flycatcher N+	13	47	Brown-h. Cowbird L	80	93
Least Flycatcher L	36	80	Scarlet Tanager N	27	80
E. Wood Pewee L	33	93	Cardinal H	119	93
Horned Lark L	21	40	Rose-br.Grosbeak H	60	87
Tree Swallow N	33	67	Indigo Bunting H	153	100
Bank Swallow N	30	47	Purple Finch N+	20	40
Rough-w. Swallow N-	6	13	Amer. Goldfinch L	280	93
Barn Swallow H	442	100	Rufous-s. Towhee L	51	67
Cliff Swallow N	12	13	Savannah Sparrow L	299	100
Purple Martin N-	21	40	Grasshop'r Sparrow L	6	27
Blue Jay N	80	100	Henslow's Sparrow N	6	27
Common Crow L	455	93	Vesper Sparrow N-	16	33
Black-c.Chickadee N+	79	80	Dark-eyed Junco N	10	33
Tufted Titmouse H	1	7	Chipping Sparrow H	299	100
White-br.Nuthatch L	6	40	Field Sparrow L	107	100
Red-br. Nuthatch H	3	13	Swamp Sparrow L	7	40
Brown Creeper N	1	7	Song Sparrow N	871	100
House Wren N	156	93			

The distribution in each group were as follows: - 30H, 13N+, 31N, 10N-, and 25L. Half of those with the H status were species with counts under 10 and usually not recorded each year. Notable exceptions were Great Blue Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Yellow-b. Sapsucker. In the case of the Great Blues half of the adjusted total came from the absentee routes. Although this was the situation in past years its justification may be questioned. Likewise the status of Purple Martin (N- instead of L) is due to the large percentage of the total usually recorded in the Dunnville Route.

It is noted that three of the four species missing last year were recorded in gratifying numbers. Only the Common Snipe was still missing. Upland Sandpiper and Hermit Thrush actually achieved an N rating while Grasshopper Sparrow only rated L. Also three of the five species listed under "serious decline" showed marked increases in totals with Henslow's Sparrow achieving an N rating while Spotted Sandpiper and Brown Thrasher came up to N-. Bluebirds and Vesper Sparrows showed no change. Finally among the eight species listed under "significant decrease", Chimney Swift came up to the N rating while Common Flicker and Eastern Phoebe showed just enough gain to rate N-. Ring-n. Pheasant, Eastern Meadowlark, and Field Sparrow showed slight numerical gains but still were in the L class while Horned Larks and Towhees continued their decline. Blue-w. Teal and Hooded Warbler were also among the missing for the second time in the fourteen year in addition to the Snipe previously noted.



Among the 10 most popular species after 7 years only the last 3 have changed. Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow and Goldfinch have been replaced by Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove and Yellow Warbler when neglecting the accidental Ring-b. Gull 7th place placing.

The records for the fourteen years show that the total numbers of species seen on all routes varied from 109 to 117, while the number recorded per route ranged from 38 to 75. The changes in total species and range of totals per route are in no way related to time. However, two correlations are of interest. 1) The total species roughly increases inversely with the number of missing routes. 2) The median number of species seen per route has decreased over the years. Where the median route for the first 6 years was  $59 \pm 1$  this dropped to  $55.5 \pm .5$  for the next two years and the last six years was  $53 \pm 1$ . Thus in 1967 and 1968 the median species/route was 60; this year it was 52. From this it would appear that birding on some routes has been deteriorating with time. A check on the fourteen years indeed show 7 routes are showing a trend toward fewer species, while one has shown an upward swing. In the latter case and about half of the declining routes the trend might either be attributed to change in operators or method of operation. One of most difficult decisions in the course of making a run is how to properly compensate for the interfering traffic and farm operation noises. Many cooperators would agree that this has become worse over the years.

4923 Creek Rd. Lewiston, N.Y. 14092

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

The paper session for the annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, 25-27 September 1981 in Syracuse, N.Y., will be held between 2 and 5p.m. on the 26th. We are currently accepting abstracts of papers to be considered for presentation. Authors should submit abstracts of 150 words or less, single spaced, and any additional descriptive information they wish to Gerald A. Smith, Onondaga Audubon Society PO Box 620 Syracuse, N.Y. 13201. All papers should pertain to some aspect of New York State ornithology.

#### GREAT LAKES BEACHED BIRD SURVEY

If you like to walk beaches at any time of the year and have some ability to identify birds, you are invited to join the Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey (GLBBS). Begun in 1977, the survey monitors bird mortality on the Great Lakes using information collected by volunteers on monthly beach walks. GLBBS is compiling long-term records on natural bird mortality and its seasonal and geographic patterns, to help us assess the significance of bird die-offs and learn more about the effects of pollutants on birds. It also documents the occurrence of uncommon species like jaegers and eiders.

Last year 1,416 birds were found on 54 routes that comprised 1.2% of the Great Lakes shoreline. To date 129 species have been represented as beached birds. Here are some examples of the survey's findings: seasonal patterns of mortality characteristic of different groups of birds; a large variety of natural and man-related causes of death, including an oil spill; large die-offs of migrating passerines in spring following periods of severe weather; age ratios of beached gulls; and high mortality levels of some species such as Oldsquaw and White-winged Scoters. Survey results are published in an annual report and newsletters sent to all beach walkers. New participants are still needed on any of the Great Lakes or connecting rivers, especially on the south shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Marys River. Counts of live waterbirds are also done at many survey routes to help in the survey's examination of the effects of winter shipping and ice conditions on bird numbers and distribution. There is a special invitation for people to make live waterbird counts at urban harbors even though they may lack beaches suitable for survey walks. If you are interested in taking part, write to:

Anne Lambert  
Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey  
c/o Long Point Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 160  
Port Rowan, Ontario  
Canada NOE 1MO TEL.(519) 586-2909

#### PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

January 28 - Two films will be shown: "The Lady and The Owl" and "The Smith's Falls Carvers" about a raptor rehabilitation clinic and decoy carving.

Ken Balmas will give a report on this years Christmas Bird Census.

February 11 - "Sea Bird Salute". Buffalo area conservationist and filmmaker Charles Joudry, who has traveled the coast from Lake Erie to Georgia, will present a newly made film highlighting the New Finland coast which shows murre and kittiwakes in their breeding location.

February 25 - Symposium on Owls in preparation for an upcoming owl watching (note 3/15 field trip). The identification and life history program moderated by Harriette Klabunde will utilize study skins, taped songs, and presentation by members.



PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- February 1 - Sunday for Gulls and Ducks Meet at Old Fort Niagara at 9:30a.m. This is a joint meeting with the Genesee Ornithological Society led by Warren Lloyd (265-0281) and Mary Ann Sunderlin (671-2210) of the G.O.S. and Bob Brock (876-5862) of the B.O.S.
- February 22 - Sunday. The Ontario Plains. Meet at the Tops Supermarket in Lewiston at 8:30a.m. Leaders are the Klabundes (1-754-4424 Lewiston).
- March 15 - Sunday. Annual Owl Excursion. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 8:00a.m. or the first parking lot south on the Canadian side at 8:15 a.m. Leaders are Blayne Farnan and Marcya Foster.
- March 29 - Oak Orchard - details to follow.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

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MAR 10 1981

# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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NUMBER 9

## THE MONTH

August weather was humid and warm with no significant cold fronts passing through the area during the month. The average temperature for the month was 72.6°(F), 4.2° above normal. Precipitation measured 3.58 inches, 0.05 inches above the norm. The only heavy rainfall in August was on the 2nd when 2.41 inches were recorded at Buffalo. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

In spite of the rather flat weather pattern in August, the fall migration of warblers and other small passerines began at mid-month with the impetus of a brief cool period and northerly winds on the 15th and 16th. Prior to that time, shorebird records dominated local birding reports with the cannery ponds at St. David's, Ontario the focus of most field activity. Other than the more common species anticipated at this season, including a flock of 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers on August 3rd, an unusually large number of Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from this location as well as at least two Western Sandpipers and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the latter bird seen by several observers on August 29th. On August 12th, 583 Lesser Yellowlegs were counted at the cannery ponds, an all time high count for this species at a single location in our study area.

Highlights of the month include a rare Snowy Egret which spent several days in the diked disposal site next to the Small Boat Harbor on the Buffalo waterfront. Robert Sundell reported a rare immature Little Blue Heron at the mouth of Chautauqua Creek near Barcelona. At Cayuga Pool at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, up to twelve Great Egrets were seen during August. Also at the INWR, an immature Bald Eagle was seen by many observers during the last two weeks of the month. The first television tower kill of the season occurred during the night of August 22nd when a small number of warblers was retrieved including one Black-and-white Warbler, four Cape May Warblers, a Black-throated Blue Warbler and one uncommon Louisiana Waterthrush.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, NY. 14217



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
* <u>Little Blue Heron</u>	August 16, 17	1	Barcelona (imm.)	Sundell
Great Egret	" 20	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle, Foster
"	31	10	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner, Clark
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	" 22	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, et al
"	31	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	" 9	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
"	9	9	Tifft Farm N.P.	Schaffner, Clark
"	9, 31	3, 8	Times Beach, Bflo	Schaffner, Clark
"	20	10	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle, Foster
"	20	3	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Canada Goose	" 31	40	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Mallard	" 9	242	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
Pintail	" 1-27	1-6	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
"	1	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner et al
Northern Shoveler	" 31	5	Iroquois NWR	Schaffner, Clark
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 17	1	Evans	Andrle, Hauser
"	22	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Cooper's Hawk	" 1-31	1-3	Amity	Pitzrick
"	6	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Bald Eagle	" 31	1	Iroquois NWR (imm.)	Schaffner
Osprey	" 21	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Ruffed Grouse	" 24	4	Tonawanda Indian Res.	McKales
Sora	" 9	1	Times Beach, Bflo	Schaffner, Clark
"	9	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Schaffner, Clark
Semipalm Plover	" 1F	4	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
"	13	20	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
Killdeer	" 15	165	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
"	20	130	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
* <u>Amer. Golden Plover</u>	" 13F	1	St. David's, Ont.	Axtell, Gardiner
"	29	6	Lowbanks, Ont.	Andrle et al
Black-bel. Plover	" 13F	6	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
"	29	83	Lowbanks, Ont.	Andrle et al
Common Snipe	" 15F-27	4-11	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
Upland Sandpiper	" 10	2	Jamestown	Sundell
"	10	6	Clarence	McKales
Solitary Sandpiper	" 17, 18	11, 11	St. David's, Ont.	Axtell
Lesser Yellowlegs	" 15	518	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Red Knot	" 13, 15	6, 1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	" 15	93	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
White-r. Sandpiper	" 1F	1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
"	23	1	Canadaway Creek N.S.	Rew
<u>Western Sandpiper</u>	" 24	1	St. David's, Ont.	Andrle et al (BOS)

Volume 46, Number - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Species	Date	Number	Location	Observer
Wilson's Phalarope	Aug. 1	1	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
	" 6, 8	3, 3	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
	" 13, 15	1, 2	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
	" 17	5	St. David's, Ont.	Andrle et al
	" 20, 22	4, 5	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
	" 27, 29	4, 6	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Gr. Black-b. Gull	" 23	28	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Bonaparte's Bull	" 23	18	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Caspian Tern	" 9	2	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	" 23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
	" 23, 24	1, 1	Barcelona	Sundell
Purple Martin	" 4	50,000	Times Beach, Bflo	Schaffner, Clark
	" 31	83,000	Times Beach, Bflo	Schaffner, Clark
Tufted Titmouse	" 1-31	1-2	Spring Brook	Danner
Carolina Wren	" 1-26	2	Spring Brook	Danner
	" 16, 24	1, 1	Bourne's Beach (Chautauqua Lake)	Sundell
Mockingbird	" 1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner
	" 29	1	Ridgeway, Ont.	Thills
Swainson's Thrush	" 1-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
E. Bluebird	" 1-31	2-23	Amity	Pitzrick
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	" 17	1	Barcelona	Sundell
Bl.-&w. Warbler	" 23F	1	Wales	Schaffner Clark
			(T-V Tower Kill)	
Tennessee Warbler	" 16E	3	Barcelona	Sundell
Nashville Warbler	" 17F	1	Barcelona	Sundell
	" 26	2	Amity	Pitzrick
Cape May Warbler	" 16F	2	Barcelona	Sundell
	" 23	4	Wales	Schaffner, Clark
			(T-V Tower kill)	
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	" 16F, 23	1, 1	Barcelona	Sundell
	23	1	Wales	Schaffner, Clark
			(T-V Tower kill)	
Yellow-r. Warbler	" 4-31	1-4	Amity	Pitzrick
	" 17F	1	Barcelona	Sundell
Blackburnian Warbler	" 16F	3	Barcelona	Sundell
Chestnut-s. Warbler	" 16F	2	Barcelona	Sundell
Ovenbird	" 23F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
La. Waterthrush	" 23F	1	Wales	Schaffner, Clark
			(T-V Tower kill)	
Wilson's Warbler	" 20F	1	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	Andrle
Canada Warbler	" 16F	1	Barcelona	Sundell
Amer. Redstart	" 16F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
House Finch	" 1-31	3-6	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	" 1-31	2-6	Eggertsville	McKales
	" 3	6	Scio (f)	Pitzrick
	" 3-29	1	Buffalo	Schaffner



Volume 46, Number 9 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....	243
Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue.....	3
Total for year.....	246

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migration
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station

Shorebirds at St. David's Canadian Cannery Ponds

by Walter Klabunde

The ponds at St. David's are unique in that they offer an excellent opportunity to study shorebirds. Although some records of past visits to these ponds produced good numbers of shorebirds, I was literally overwhelmed by the variety and numbers that stopped here on their southward migration.

The ponds are about 0.4 mile west of Creek Road on Line 8, a gravel road approximately one mile north of Route 81. (Using B.O.S. sectional maps the ponds are in Section 2 coordinates G-10.). There are three ponds which we designated as SE, SW, and N ponds. The first two cover about 7 acres (approximately 400' x 750') and the latter 10 acres (about 400' x 1100'). The gravel road from the entrance proceeds north on the dike between the SE and SW ponds and then follows west on the dike between the N and SW ponds, to the pumphouse. In June all ponds were full. During July and August water was pumped slowly from one pond at a time into nearby Four Mile Creek. When canning operations started, the effluent from the cannery was sprayed over the adjacent 50 acre field. Drainage from the fields was recycled over other sections. After the fields were saturated, part of the water was used to fill the ponds. The filling started about 1 September and by mid October when my visits ceased all ponds were covered-but not filled.

Each visit to the area was usually 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 3 hours - 8:45 AM to 11:30 AM. Most of the time was spent scanning the ponds with a 20X spotting scope. Most of the birds observed for identification were within 500' with the closest not more than 30' away. Usually a short time was also spent checking the birds in the field. Identification here was limited because of distance and poor visibility due to the cover by high grasses and weeds. During the latter part of the project, dozens of birds were regularly seen in the field. Only those of which we were certain were in the daily counts. Occasional groups also came in from, or left for, unknown fields to the north. Thus the population at the ponds was quite variable on some days. The figures given in the accompanying table should be considered a minimum for the area each day.

Over the sixteen week period of observations 23 species were recorded. Only one species - Killdeer - was recorded in all 29 visits. Four species: - Long-billed Dowitcher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, and Reeve (Ruff) were only noted once and could be considered accidental. Both Buff-br. Sandpiper, whose normal habitat is short grassy fields, and Ruddy Turnstone, that normally belong at stony lake or seashore, were out of place here. The Long-b. Dowitcher and Reeve are both rare in the region, the latter being classed as a casual visitor from Eurasia, although seen annually in northeast U.S. and the Maritime Provinces.

One of the penalties of trying to identify and obtain reasonable counts for each species with only one observer is that often some essential details are missed. I failed to see the white spots on each side of the Reeve's tail, a diagnostic feature which I missed. I failed to see it fly off because I was also trying to check on two buffy-appearing plovers - as possible Golden Plovers. In the meantime the Reeve was gone and was not seen again, and then too the plovers had moved without my seeing them fly. Here I was looking for the presence or absence of black axillars. Fortunately on the majority of the visits Art Schaffner was with me, and he did most of the counting, giving me the opportunity to look at the birds carefully. Also Art was an excellent teacher giving me all the various plumage details to look for. Anyway I ended the season feeling that the 80 hours of field study had improved my summer and fall shorebird identification.

4923 Creek Rd. - Lewiston, NY. 14092

Shorebirds at Canadian Cannery Ponds - St. David's - 1980

Date	June	July									August				
	27	2	4	8	11	16	18	23	25	30	1	6	8	13	
Species															
Semipalm.Plover												2	8	20	
Killdeer	6	2	1	4	4	5	2	6	1	3	35	5	23	60	
Black-b.Plover														6	
Common Snipe			1												
Spotted Sandpiper	4	9	12	20	24	23	17	21	30	10	16	12	7	9	
Solitary Sandpiper				2		1	1		1	1	1	2	1	2	
Greater Yellowlegs						3					2	1		3	
Lesser Yellowlegs		3	5	5		13	16	8	50	170	263	320	280	430	
Red Knot							2							1	
Pectoral Sandpiper							1	1		4	19	22	23	55	
White-r. Sandpiper											1				
Least Sandpiper		1		1	2		1	29	15	7	16	16	9	37	
Short-b.Dowitcher				1	2	7	7		29	24	16	12	11	16	
Long-b.Dowitcher										1					
Stilt Sandpiper										31	30	14	4		
Semipalm.Sandpiper			4			2	3	191	400	725	1500	1100	900	400	
Western Sandpiper								2		1	1				
Wilson's Phalarope										1	1	3	3	1	
Unidentified Peeps					3	9	15								
Total Species	2	4	4	7	4+	7+	8	7	7	12	13	12	11	13	
Total Individuals	10	15	19	37	35	63	63	258	526	978	1901	1509	1269	1040	



Volume 46, Number 9 - "Shorebirds" (con't.)

	August				September							October			
Date	15	20	27	29	3	5	10	12	17	19	24	1	3	8	10
Species															
Semipal. Plover	19	30	28	18	7	7	7	6	4	5	4	7	3		
Killdeer	165	130	52	53	20	61	38	103	9	81	159	52	27	145	75
Black-b. Plover	6	6		1				1	1		1	22	4	7	
Common Snipe	4	1	1	1	1	1		3		1		1	6	2	8
Spotted Sandpiper	9	8	3	3		1				1	1				
Solitary Sandpiper	4	3	1	5	2	1		1		2		2	2		
Greater Yellowlegs	6	4	6	1			4				5	1	4	3	4
Lesser Yellowlegs	518	182	142	80	40	27	15	20	9	17	16	17	16	24	6
Red Knot	1		1	1	1	1	3								
Pectoral Sandpiper	93	45	12	34	9	14	12	7	1	1	1	26	78	2	3
White-r. Sandpiper												2			
Least Sandpiper	34	43	15	3	3	4	14	18	5	3	6	1	8	4	
Dunlin												18	22	55	45
Short-b. Dowitcher	19	9	6	9	1	1				1	1	1		2	2
Stilt Sandpiper	3	2	1	6	6	4	11	7		3					
Semipalm. Sandpiper	200	164	116	118	68	77	11	17	18	13	1	2	3	5	6
Western Sandpiper				1											
Buff-b. Sandpiper				1											
Sanderling		1											1		
Ruddy Turnstone						2									
Wilson's Phalarope	2	4	4	6	1			1							
Ruff (Reeve)															1(Reeve)
Unidentified Peeps											2				
Total Species	15	15	14	17	12	13	9	11	7	11	10	14	12	10	8
Total Individuals	1083	632	388	341	159	201	115	184	47	128	197	153	174	249	160

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project Report for 1980

The first year of field study in the five-year Atlas project was a great success. Over 100 active and enthusiastic observers recorded at least 155 of the 182 species of breeding birds known for Region 1. They were able to confirm breeding for at least 132 of these and attain Probable status for a number of others. Of the approximately 625 (5 x 5 km) blocks in the region, over 152 were covered to varying degrees.

Some of the more unusual and interesting species confirmed were Turkey Vulture, Goshawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Orchard Oriole. It will be an exciting challenge to seek confirmation for some of the rarer nesting species, or those for which breeding evidence is difficult to obtain, such as American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Marsh Hawk, Common Snipe, Whip-poor-will, Winter Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Pine Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow.

So far such rarities as Pintail, King Rail, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat have not been recorded in the Atlas research. Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls have been confirmed in some blocks, but more nocturnal visits to blocks should be made and

Long-eared, Short-eared and Saw-whet Owls need to be diligently sought for as well. Eight species of raptors, seven species of waterfowl and 21 species of warblers have been confirmed as breeding to date, as well as all species of woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows and icterids known to nest in the region.

Results of last year's efforts have been placed in a computer by the Department of Environmental Conservation and a report sheet for each block worked in will be available for each participant. Time spent and number of species recorded in each block in 1980 vary considerably. Some observers have just started their investigations and recorded 15 to 20 or so species while others have spent enough time to record over 50 or even 75 species. But distribution patterns are already beginning to emerge.

Many blocks need more study and we have a large number of blocks with very interesting habitats and possibilities that have not yet been covered. In 1980 in Region 1 observers worked a total of at least 2,161 hours, tallied 6,362 breeding records and spent an average of 20.3 minutes of effort per breeding record. I commend them for this fine accomplishment.

We have had an excellent first year and I look forward to an even better one this year with further coverage of 1980 blocks and initial studies in new blocks. I will be meeting with the various clubs in Region 1 and will have all Atlas materials available. We welcome all our first-year observers and hopefully many new participants. Here is a fine opportunity for a cooperative endeavor which is both a learning experience and which contributes to knowledge of our resident birds. Great Horned Owls are already nesting and an exciting season lies ahead. Please contact me if you wish to join us in this challenging study.

Robert F. Andrle  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14211  
Tel.: 716-896-5200

B.O.S. Officers and Council Members Announced

The following officers and council members were elected at the October 8, 1980 meeting of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Honorary President	Harold Mitchell
President	Brad Lown
Vice-President	Michael Zebehazy
Secretary	Karen Renning
Treasurer	Peggy Daniels
Statisticians	Fran Rew
	Dr. Robert Andrle
Librarian	Marie Wendling
Custodian of Records	Marie Wendling
Members of the Council	Robert Klips, Marian Bee, Esther Becker, Robert Andrle



The complete list of Members of the Council is as follows:

Member	Active until October	Phone
Marcy Foster (secretary)	1981	674-8566
Brad Lown	1981	688-9433
Willaim Vaughan	1981	284-8709
Robert Andrle	1982	896-5200
Wavel Barber (chairman)	1982	683-3061
Peggy Daniels	1982	832-1683
Esther Becker	1983	537-2592
Marian Bee	1983	655-0343
Robert Klips	1983	882-7956
Michael Zebehazy	(Editor)	668-0351

#### Tifft Farm Early Morning Bird Walks

Once again Marcy Foster will lead two Dawn Birdwalks at the Tifft Farm Nature Preserve this Spring. The walks are set for May 13 and May 20 (Wednesdays) from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m., which happens to be the best time of day and one of the greatest times of the year for birds and birders alike. The thought of it is enough to make your eyes water, to twist an old cliché. So why not plan to get up and get out to see how many Spring migrants you can spot before work or school.

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Another event planned at Tifft Farm and of interest to birders is the April 10 Woodcock Watch and Nightwalk scheduled for 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This Spring Thing requires a reservation and a \$1.00 fee.

#### Four Federation Pelagic Trips for 1981

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has organized a series of pelagic birding trips out of Montauk Point on the eastern tip of Long Island. Three of the trips - June 7, August 22, and November 28 - will be aboard the Finback I, a 72-foot one-time charter fishing boat. Departure time is 6:30 a.m. and the destination is Cox's Ledge, some 40 miles distant. Also included will be a side excursion to Block Island with the possibility of viewing Finback and Humpback whales.

The cost of the first two trips is \$30 for F.N.Y.S.B.C. members and \$35 for non-members. The November trip is \$25 and \$30 respectively.

The fourth trip is September 19, which will go to Hudson Canyon, ninety miles out, aboard a Viking fleet boat. The cost has not been announced. For more information and to reserve a spot on any of the trips, write to Dr. Barbara Spencer, 154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579, and make checks payable to the Federation.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

- March 11 - Life of the Southeastern Swamps. Kurt Emmanuel will present a talk and slide show featuring the wetlands of the Carolinas and and Florida with emphasis on bird life and flora.
- March 25 - Early American Ornithologists. Robert Klips will deliver a presentation on the life and accomplishments of Alexander Wilson (Father of American Ornithology), as well as John James Audubon during his "wilderness years."
- April 8 - Birds of America. Maintaining the theme of the previous meeting, Robert Brock will present the life and accomplishments of John James Audubon during his "folio years" illustrating the development of the spectacular Birds of America.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- March 15 - Sunday. Annual Owl Excursion. Meet at Vermont and Busti Sts. at 8:00 a.m. or at 8:15 a.m. at the first parking lot south of the Peace Bridge on the Canadian side. Leaders are Blayne Farnan (416-834-7541, Canada) and Marcy Foster (674-8566).
- March 29 - Sunday. Oak Orchard and the Sinks. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of Citibank, at the Transitown Plaza, Main St. (Rte. 5) and Transit Rd. (Rte. 78), Clarence, N.Y. Late arrivals can meet at 10:100 a.m. (approximately) at the Cayuga Pool, Tonawanda WMA, on the south side of Rte. 77 west of the village of Alabama. Leaders: Marie Wendling 632-6625 and John Morris.

PROGRAM -

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, NY 14217

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

BACK ISSUES: Available at fifty cents per copy from the treasurer.

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EIDTOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, NY. 14227

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

VOLUME 46

OCTOBER 1980

NUMBER 10

## THE MONTH

September was a wet and warm month with no major weather disturbances. The first frosts of autumn did not occur until the last week of the month in the higher elevations south of Buffalo. The average temperature for September was  $62.4^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ , a departure of  $0.8^{\circ}\text{(F)}$  from the norm. Rainfall measured 4.53 inches, 1.28 inches above normal. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

September made an auspicious beginning with a Labor Day bird-watching outing on the 1st turning up the first records of Franklin's Gull and Forster's Tern for the year. However, no further sightings of Franklin's Gull were reported until month's end, rather unusual as this gull is not uncommon on the Niagara River during the early migration of larids through our region in the fall. Also puzzling was the dearth of Little Gull records on the Niagara River and in Buffalo Harbor in September although Bonaparte's Gulls, with which this bird habitually associates, were present all month in their thousands. A series of cold fronts passing through the area brought several large waves of migrating warblers and other passerines to western New York in September although migrants were reported in good numbers in all localities throughout the month regardless of weather conditions. Following the passage of a cold front during the early morning hours of the 15th, observers at Hawk Cliff near Port Stanley, Ontario on Lake Erie tallied over 19,000 Broad-winged Hawks on that date. During the rainy, overcast evening of September 16th, a kill of major proportions of migrating passerines was reported from the local television towers south of Buffalo. It was Arthur Clark's unpleasant duty to count over 722 dead birds of 36 species at the base of these towers in his daily survey of mortality on September 18th. This is the second highest number of birds retrieved since Clark commenced his study of television tower bird kills in 1967. Tower kills during the nights of the 20th and the 21st totalled almost 600 birds of 32 species including three adult male Hooded Warblers and a Connecticut Warbler. Two Connecticut Warblers had also been recovered after a tower kill on September 1st.



Some interesting records for September include the Snowy Egret seen for the last time in the diked disposal site next to the Buffalo Small Boat Harbor on the 5th. On September 7th, Robert Andrle and a party of bird-watchers arrived at the cannery ponds at St. David's, Ontario just in time to witness a spectacular display of aerobatics on the part of an immature Peregrine Falcon as it scattered the shorebirds assembled on the mudflats with its repeated stoops before finally striking a hapless Lesser Yellowlegs and flying off with it, eating on the wing! This is a most unusual type of feeding behavior for this species with few references to it in the literature. It is thought to be an adaptation on the part of this raptor to satisfy energy requirements while migrating from the high Arctic to South America in a relatively short period of time in fall. On the same day, Andrle and his party found a Whimbrel, rare in fall in this area, at Rock Point Provincial Park and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at the Merion Sod farm just north of Lowbanks in Moulton Township, Ontario, both exciting records but somehow anti-climactic after the Peregrine Falcon adventure. Another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported from the cannery ponds at St. David's by Esther Becker on September 27th. A very early Red Phalarope was seen in Buffalo Harbor September 28-30 by Mike Zebehazy.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, NY. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migration
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	Sept. 7	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Andrle, et al
	10	1	Times Beach, Bflo.	Andrle, Byron
D.-cr. Cormorant	27	4	Rock Point Prov. Park	Andrle et al
<u>Snowy Egret</u>	5	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Foster
Great Egret	1,7	10,7	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	15	3	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
Canada Goose	25	50	over Alfred	Brooks
Pintail	24	3	St. David's, Ont,	Schaffner, Klabunde
Gren-w. Teal	10	2	St. David's. Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	10	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark

Voluem 46, Number 10-"Noteworthy Records" (Con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	Sept.			
Common Goldeneye	21	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
Ruddy Duck	1	3	Iroquois NWR	McKales
Red-br. Merganser	24	14	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Schaffner
Sharp-sh. Hawk	10,22	1,1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	30	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Cooper's Hawk	20	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bald Eagle	7	1	Iroquois NWR	McKales
	(sub-adult bird - tagged)			
Osprey	6,20	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	11	1	Scio	Pitzricks
	17,18,30	1,1,1	Belmont	Burtons
	20	2	Wellsville	Burtons, Jordan
	27	1	Port Maitland, Ont.	Andrle et al
	28	1	Beaver Meadow EEC	Becker et al
*Peregrine Falcon	7	1	St. David's, Ont.	Andrle et al
Killdeer	24	159	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	28	70	Clarence	McKales
American Golden Plover	7	2	Wainfleet Twp., Ont.	Andrle et al
	27	9	Willow Bay, Ont.	Andrle et al
	28	35	Clarence	McKales
Black-bell. Plover	7	25	Wainfleet Twp., Ont.	Andrle et al
American Woodcock	10F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Whimbrel	7	3	Rock Point Prov. Park	Andrle et al
Red Knot	10	5	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
	27	8	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
White-r. Sandpiper	27	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Andrle et al
Dunlin	5F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Adnrle, Foster
	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	15	1	Bird Island Pier	Schaffner, Clark
Stilt Sandpiper	7,13	18,8	St. David's, Ont.	Andrle et al
	10	11	St. David's, Ont.	Schaffner, Klabunde
*Buff-br. Sandpiper	7	2	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Andrle et al
	27	1	St. David's, Ont.	Becker et al
Sanderling	10	24	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
	15	15	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
	21	200	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Ruddy Turnstone	15	12	Buffalo Harbor	Schaffner, Clark
Red Phalarope	30F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Schaffner et a
*Northern Phalarope	14F	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Franklin's Gull	1,28	1,1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle et al
Bonaparte's Gull	15	1500	Bird Island Pier	Schaffner, Clark
Little Gull	1F,27	1,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	15	1	Bird Island Pier	Schaffner, Clark
*Forster's Tern	1,27	1,7	LaSalle Park, Bflo	Andrle et al
	15	2	Bird Island Pier	Schaffner, Clark
Caspian Tern	10	9	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
	14L	1	Tifft Farm N.P.	Andrle et al
Common Nighthawk	19	2	Kenmore	Thill



Volume 46, Number 10 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	Sept.			
Chimney Swift	26L	250	over Buffalo	Thill
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	22F, 30	3, 3	Elma	Danner
Eastern Kingbird	10L	1	Elma	Danner
Gr.-Crest. Flycatcher	5L	1	Amity	Pitzrick
E. Wood Pewee	24	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
Olive-s. Flycatcher	8	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Barn Swallow	20L	33	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Cliff Swallow	15, 17L	4, 3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Tufted Titmouse	1, 20	1, 2	Elma	Danner
Winter Wren	24	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
	28	1	Pendleton	McKales
Carolina Wren	2-19	1-2	Elma	Danner
	14, 28	1, 1	Tiffit Farm N.P.	Andrle et al
	28	1	Beaver Island St. Pk.	McKales
Gray Catbird	1-30	1-2	Belmont	Burtens
	29	4	Alfred	Klingensmith
Wood Thrush	25	1	Alfred	Brooks
	25	3	Elma	Danner
Swainson's Thrush	8F	1	Alfred	Brooks
Gray-ch. Thrush	9F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
E. Bluebird	1-30	1-27	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	3	5	Angelica	Burtens, Jordan
	16	8	Wales	Schaffner, Clark
	20	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bl-gr. Gnatcatcher	2	1	Belmont	Burtens
Golden-cr. Kinglet	5	3	Alfred	Klingensmith
	6	3	Foster Lake	Pitzrick
	6, 20, 25	3, 1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
	24F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	11F, 16, 18	1, 1, 1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	23	1	Elma	Danner
	23	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Cedar Waxwing	18	80	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Yellow-thr. Vireo	8L	1	Elma	Danner
Solitary Vireo	30	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Philadelphia Vireo	9	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-eyed Vireo	29	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Blue-w. Warbler	12L	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Tennessee Warbler	8-30	1-9	Alfred	Brooks
	8-30	1-3	Alfred	Brooks
	29	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Magnolia Warbler	29	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Cape May Warbler	8-30	1-2	Alfred	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	5-30	1-7	Alfred	Klingensmith
	10	4	Elma	Danner
Bay-br. Warbler	8F, 12	2, 1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	9, 11	1, 2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	10	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner

Volume 46, Number 10 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u> Sept.	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Blackpoll Warbler	7F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	10	1	Rock Point Prov. Park	Schaffner
Prairie Warbler	2	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Northern Oriole	19L	2	Elma	Danner
Scarlet Tanager	11,26L	1,1	Alfred	Brooks
Rose-br. Grosbeak	24	3	Elma	Danner
Indigo Bunting	22	10	Alfred	Klingensmith
<u>House Finch</u>	1-30	5-8	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
	1-30	6-10	Belmont	Burtens
	1-30	3-5	Eggertsville	McKales
	11	1	Alfred	Brooks
	21	1	Buffalo	Schaffner
Lincoln's Sparrow	14F,18	1,1	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
Dark-eyed Junco	18F,29	2,4	Alfred	Klingensmith
	24,30	5,6	Elma	Danner
White-thr. Sparrow	5	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	6	1	Foster Lake	Pitzrick
	12F	1	Buffalo	Schaffner
	16	3	Eggertsville (f)	McKales

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year.....247

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue..... 6

Total for year.....253

STATISTICIANS' NOTE

Our records indicate that over the past few years the House Finch has not only increased in numbers at locations from which it is regularly reported but has also extended its range throughout most of our study area. In view of that and the fact that our members have now become familiar with this species and its identification, written verification reports will no longer be required for House Finch at any time of year or from any location in our territory.

Members are requested to continue their careful observation of this species and to send in their records reporting all new locations and noteworthy numbers.

Robert F. Andrie  
Frances M. Rew  
Statisticians



### LESSONS FROM A HASTY OBSERVATION

Haste makes waste, but it also makes for improper identification. Identifying my first Red Phalarope (Phalaropus fulicarius) turned out to be more of a problem and somewhat of an embarrassment for me.

On Sunday, September 28, 1980, Wendy (my fiancée) and I were on our way to the small boat harbor to meet friends for a sailing excursion around the waterfront. Since we were so close, a quick check of the diked site was in order. There, quietly swimming along, was a shorebird which I immediately recognized as a phalarope. What didn't hit me at the time was the correct species.

The only phalarope I was familiar with was the Wilson's, which I wrongly assumed this one to be. My observation that afternoon was merely a casual one which led to a quick assumption, and, I discovered the next day, a false conclusion.

Monday afternoon, September 29, I made a phone call to Dr. Andrle at the Museum of Science to report the find for Dial-a-Bird. Since I hadn't checked the date guide for Wilson's Phalarope, I was surprised to learn that it was quite late by this time.

One field mark that kept haunting me was the phalarope patch behind the eye which I mentioned to Dr. Andrle. It was so distinct even in my casual observation and after a few more questions I knew I had made an error.

Another important field mark which I hadn't observed carefully was the shape of the bill. I was sure it was needle-like. This false assumption led to the idea that perhaps the bird was actually a Northern Phalarope. Here, the dates would be okay and the alleged field marks would fit.

The next step was to return to the site on the outside chance the bird was still there and make a more detailed observation. Late that afternoon, September 29th, I raced down to the harbor and was grateful to see the bird had not left. This time I took one and a half hours studying it. Now my mind was set on Northern Phalarope, but try as I might, I couldn't transform this little sandpiper into something it wasn't.

As last I decided that the thicker bill, solid gray back and phalarope patch belonged to the Red Phalarope in winter plumage. On Tuesday, another call to Dr. Andrle was in order. Since it was about two weeks early for Red Phalarope I wanted to be sure and since I had botched the initial observation, Dr. Andrle wanted to be sure also.

Early that afternoon, Art Clark and Art Schaffner visited the site confirming, at last, Red Phalarope. Later that afternoon, I visited the site again to further study the species so that next time there would be no mistake. The bird continued at the site through October 2nd.

Because this was a life bird for me, the hasty observation was that much

Volume 46, Number 10 - "Hasty Observation" (con't.)

more difficult to swallow. Thankfully, it remained at the location allowing for proper identification. Since that time, all my observations have been conducted more carefully and even the more common species are "new" to me in many ways.

Michael A. Zebchazy  
95 Slate Creek Dr.  
Cheektowaga, NY. 14227

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

- April 8 - "Birds of America: Maintaining the theme of the previous meeting, Robert Brock will present the life and accomplishments of John James Audubon during his "folio years" illustrating the development of the spectacular Birds of America.
- April : 22 - Watching Wild Wings. A Program on waterfowl, presented by Jim Snider of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, will feature a film on duck identification and a discussion on the Department's bird studies on the Niagara River.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- April 26 - Braddock Bay Hawk Lookout. We will meet with the Genesee Ornithological Society at the lookout at 8:30a.m. If the hawks aren't flying we will bird the Lake Ontario Shore or other nearby areas. Leaders Warren Lloyd (1-265-0281) and Mary Ann Sunderlin (1-671-2210) of the G.O.S. and Mike Zebchazy (668-0351). We will meet for car-pooling at 6:30 a.m. at Citibank, Transitown Plaza, Main St. at Transit Rd. Clarence, returning to Buffalo by early evening.
- May 3 - Hawks at Grimsby, Ontario. We will meet at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge parking lot on the American side of the river for car-pooling. Leader, Walter Klabunde (754-4424, Lewiston)

PROGRAM - COUNTS

- April 12 - Annual April Count. Compiler, Ed Williams (875-8212 days; 416-894-3548 evenings). Call Ed to volunteer to cover one of the B.O.S. sections or for further information about this important annual census.
- May 17 - Annual May Count. Compiler, Tom Harper (1-547-9563, Darien Ctr.). Call Tom to volunteer to cover one of the 28 B.O.S. study areas or for further information.



Volume 46, Number 10 - "Program-Counts" (con't.)

Ed. Note: If you don't feel able to cover a section please volunteer to help out anyway. There is always room and help is always needed and appreciated.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Hoseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, NY. 1421

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at 18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14221

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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BUFFALO, NEW YORK

VOLUME 46

NOVEMBER 1980

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NUMBER 11

MAY 4 1981

## THE MONTH

October was wetter and cooler than normal with 4.69 inches of rain recorded, 1.68 inches above average. 2.42 inches of rain were measured in an all day downpour on October 25th preceding a cold front which brought up to five inches of snow to the higher elevations south of Buffalo on the following day. The first snow of the season in the form of flurries and sleet occurred in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties on the 13th. The average temperature for the month was  $48.7^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ , a departure of  $-2.8^{\circ}$  from the norm. On only two days, October 1st and 15th, did the temperature exceed  $70^{\circ}\text{(F)}$  and there was no Indian Summer worthy of note this year. (Meteorological data as compiled at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The first significant cold front of the fall passed through the Niagara Frontier on the night of October 4th flooding the area with migrating Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows. In Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on October 5th, this writer counted over 200 robins in one flock resting and feeding on a lawn near Mirror Lake with Golden-crowned Kinglets and their Ruby-crowned congeners seemingly moving through every tree. The first Pine Siskins of the season were reported by Vivian Pitzrick at Wellsville in Allegany County on the 9th but no flight of birds of this species materialized in spite of reports of a major irruption in northern Ontario and Quebec in October. Indeed, no other winter finches were reported from our study area until the 24th when the Klabundes counted nine Snow Buntings in a flock at Joseph Davis State Park at Lewiston. In spite of favorable weather conditions, waterfowl migration was rather flat with most of the species that winter on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario not making an appearance until the last week of the month. No Brant flight was reported in October.

Interesting records for October include eight Great Egrets still present at Cayuga Pool on the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on the 5th. On October 3rd, a rare Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Ring-neck Marsh on the refuge. A presumptive female Ruff was reported from the cannery ponds at St. David's, Ontario on October 1st. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were also seen at this productive location



on October 12th. On October 19th, Robert Andrie and his party counted ten Forster's Terns perched on a channel marker buoy off of LaSalle Park in Buffalo Harbor. Eight of these birds were still present at that location two days later. On October 24th, John Morse flushed a rare Yellow Rail from the grass on the New York State Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area south of N.Y. Route #77 in Niagara County.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	October			
Common Loon	29	1	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Grebe	19	10	SPA Reservoir	Klabundes
Snow Goose	26	1	Iroquois NWR (white morph)	Andrie et al (BOS)
Gadwall	29	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
American Wigeon	29	100	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
Redhead	26	35	Mayville	Rew
Ring-necked Duck	22	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Canvasback	26	27	Mayville	Rew
Greater Scaup	26	125	Mayville	Rew
Bufflehead	26	200	Mayville	Rew
	29	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	29	650	North Shore, L. Erie	Schaffner
Oldsquaw	29F	50	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
Black Scoter	15F	1	Chippewa, Ont.	Klabundes
Surf Scoter	15	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
Ruddy Duck	19	130	SPA Reservoir	Klabunde
Hooded Merganser	29	2	Windmill Point, Ont.	Schaffner
Common Merganser	29	2	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
Sharp-sh. Hawk	6	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	7,9	1,1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	15,27	1,1	Orchard Park	Saville
Cooper's Hawk	12	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	17,18,23	1,1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	29	1	Orchard Park	Saville
Osprey	6,10,30	1,1,1	Town of Amity	Burtens
	10-25	1	Amity Lake	Pitzricks
	17	1	Spring Brook	Danner
*Yellow Rail	24	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morse
American Coot	26F	800	Mayville	Rew

Volume 46, Number 11 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	October			
Killdeer	23	25	Almond Dam	Brooks
Greater Yellowlegs	26L	5	Iroquois NWR	Christensen et al (BOS)
Lesser Yellowlegs	26L	1	Iroquois NWR	Christensen et al (BOS)
Pectoral Sandpiper	26L	2	Iroquois NWR	Christensen et al (BOS)
Dunlin	29	88	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
Semipalm Sandpiper	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Christensen et al (BOS)
	29L	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Schaffner
Sanderling	29	4	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Schaffner
Ruddy Turnstone	29	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Schaffner
Great Black-b. Gull	26	54	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Bonaparte's Gull	26	4000	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Little Gull	19	2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle et al
	19	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle et al
Forster's Tern	19, 21	10, 9	LaSalle Pk., Bflo.	Andrle et al
Common Tern	15	50	Chippewa, Ont.	Klabundes
Red-headed Wdpkr.	12-14	1	Jamestown	Beal
Eastern Phoebe	21L	1	Friendship	Burtens
E. Wood Pewee	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
Tufted Titmouse	6	1	Jamestown	Beal
	22-31	1-2	Bond's Lake	Klabundes
House Wren	9, 21	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Winter Wren	5	1	Bond's Lake	Klabundes
	9	1	Eggertsville	Hulls
	19	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Carolina Wren	8, 12, 17	1, 2, 2	Spring Brook	Danner
	14, 19	2, 1	Cheektowaga	Schwartz
	25	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Mockingbird	17	1	Belmont	Burtens
Gray Catbird	5	3	Bond's Lake	Klabundes
	17	1	Alfred	Brooks
American Robin	5	200	Forest Lawn, Bflo	Thills
	24	100	Wales	Rosche
	26	145	Amity	Pitzrick
	29	200	Alfred	Brooks
Wood Thrush	10	2	Spring Brook	Danner
	15	1	Alfred	Brooks
Hermit Thrush	28	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
E. Bluebird	1-31	3-32	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	5	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	23	1	Alfred	Brooks
	27	2	Belmont	Burtens
Golden-cr. Kinglet	5	150	Forest Lawn, Bflo	Thills
Cedar Waxwing	30	300	Wales	Rosche
Solitary Vireo	16, 21	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-eyed Vireo	9	2	Alfred	Brooks
Tennessee Warbler	7, 9	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
Orange-cr. Warbler	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
	21	1	Jamestown	Beal



Volume 46, Number 1 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Nashville Warbler	9, 19L	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Parula	5	1	Bond's Lake	Klabundes
Magnolia Warbler	8	1	Elma	Forsberg
Cape May Warbler	8	1	Elma	Forsberg
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	13L	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Bl.-thr. Gr. Warbler	12	1	Spring Brook	Danner
Palm Warbler	5, 6	4, 1	Alfred	Brooks
	10, 15	1, 1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Northern Waterthrush	13L	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Common Yellowthroat	15, 17	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-w. Blackbird	29	3300	Amity	Pitzrick
Common Grackler	7	500	Alfred	Klingensmith
	31	500	Elma	Forsberg
Rusty Blackbird	18	100	Beaver Meadow	EEC Becker
Scarlet Tanager	6	1	Darien Center	Harper
Rose-br. Grosbeak	3	1	Amity	Pitzrick
Evening Grosbeak	23	6	Alfred	Brooks
	28	15	Darien Center (f)	Harper
<u>House Finch</u>	1-31	6-8	Eggertsville (f)	Hulls
	1-31	3-7	Amity (f)	Pitzrick
	1-31	2	Jamestown	Beal
	1-31	10-25	Cheektowaga	Schwartz
	1-31	6-10	Belmont	Burtens
	5, 9	1, 2	Alfred	Brooks
	13-31	9	(max.) Lewiston	Klabundes
	13	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	28	2	Holland (f)	Becker
Pine Siskin	9F	22	Wellsville	Pitzrick
Vesper Sparrow	9	2	Friendship	Burtens, Jordan
Chipping Sparrow	1-13	4-18	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	24	3	Wales	Rosche
White-cr. Sparrow	3F-20	1-4	Darien Center (f)	Harper
	3F-31	1-12	Amity	Pitzrick
	9	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	9	2	Belmont	Burtens
	9	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
White-thr. Sparrow	4	54	Amity	Pitzrick
	5	100	Bond's Lake	Klabundes
Lincoln's Sparrow	3, 17L	1, 1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	5	1	Alfred	Brooks
Fox Sparrow	27	1	Wales (f)	Rosche
Song Sparrow	3, 4	101, 93	Amity	Pitzrick
	8	81	Alfred	Klingensmith
Snow Bunting	24F	9	Jos. Davis St. Pk.	Klabundes
	26	2	Iroquis NWR	Andrle et al
	29	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Pk.	Schaffner
	31	15	Alfred	Klingensmith

Volume 46, Number 11 - "Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded this year.....	252
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue.....	4(3 on Oct
Total for year.....	256

Report of the Fall Bird Count

Date: October 12, 1980

Compiler: Bradley A. Lown

Weather: Overcast, cool and windy. Temperatures were in the low to mid 40's with occasional showers. Winds were from the Northwest at 20-30 mph.

Compilation: Folbwing is a list of species recorded on the count and the total numbers of each. Figures in parentheses indicate section numbers where species were recorded in three or fewer sections. Underlined common names indicate that acceptable written verifications were received.

Loons - Mergansers

Common Loon	10	Blue-w. Teal	130
Horned Grebe	64	American Wigeon	733
Pied-billed Grebe	67	Northern Shoveler	8 (5,9)
Double-cr. Cormorant	2 (6,20)	Wood Duck	160
Great Blue Heron	116	Redhead	13 (5)
Green Heron	6 (11,12,24)	Ring-necked Duck	118 (3,5,14)
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	8 (2,11)	Canvasback	1 (23)
American Bittern	1 (13)	Greater Scaup	2513
Whistling Swan	2 (23)	Lesser Scaup	501 (3,15)
Danada Goose	2562	Bufflehead	100 (9)
Snow Goose	1 (10)	White-w. Scoter	34 (1,14,20)
Mallard	2047	Surf Scoter	5 (20)
Black Duck	266	Ruddy Duck	91
Gadwall	59	Hooded Merganser	15 (10)
Pintail	102	Common Merganser	89
Green-w. Teal	60	Red-br. Merganser	19 (1,617)

Vultures - Rails

Turkey Vulture	32	Marsh Hawk	18
Sharp-sh. Hawk	7	Osprey	7
Cooper's Hawk	14	American Kestrel	81
Red-tailed Hawk	133	Ruffed Grouse	44
Red-should. Hawk	3 (24,27,28)	Ring-n. Pheasant	41
Broad-w. Hawk	1 (7)	Turkey	73
Rough-leg. Hawk	1 (12)	Common Gallinule	7 (3,6,11)
Bald Eagle	1 (24)	American Coot	1220



Shorebirds

Killdeer	594	Red Knot	1 (6)
Black-bellied Plover	5 (1,6,11)	Pectoral Sandpiper	4 (6,13)
Amer. Woodcock	4	Least Sandpiper	4 (6)
Common Snipe	29	Dunlin	118
Spotted Sandpiper	5 (6,24)	Long-b. Dowitcher	2 (2)
Solitary Sandpiper	1 (24)	Semipalm Sandpiper	11 (2,6,17)
Greater Yellowlegs	51	Sanderling	45 (6,7)
Lesser Yellowlegs	17		

Jaegers - Flycatchers

Great Bl. Backed Gull	100	Long-eared Owl	1 (7)
Herring Gull	3942	Belted Kingfisher	57
Ring-b. Gull	21,861	Common Flicker	116
Banaparte's Gull	8245	Pileated Woodpecker	5 (13,19,22)
Little Gull	1 (11)	Red-bellied Woodpkr	7 (13,19,27)
Forster's Tern	1 (11)	Red-headed Wkpk	5
Common Tern	73 (1,2,11)	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3 (9,12,19)
Rock Dove	1959	Hairy Woodpecker	40
Mourning Dove	923	Downy Woodpecker	123
Screech Owl	6 (6,11,13)	Eastern Phoebe	9
Great Horned Owl	8	E. Wood Pewee	2 (15,24)
Barred Owl	2 (24)		

Larks - Thrushes

H. Lark ( <u>praticola</u> )	61	Winter Wren	12
Tree Swallow	328	Long-b. Marsh Wren	2 (11)
Blue Jay	1146	Mockingbird	12
Common Crow	2891	Gray Catbird	28
Black-c. Chickadee	954	Brown Thrasher	3 (23,28)
Tufted Titmouse	7	American Robin	4493
White-br. Nuthatch	161	Hermit Thrush	28
Red-br. Nuthatch	43	Swainson's Thrush	14
Brown Creeper	18	Gray-cr. Thrush	1 (12)
House Wren	7	Eastern Bluebird	99

Kinglets - Weaver Finches

Golden-cr. Kinglet	127	Cape May Warbler	2 (13,24)
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	137	Yellow-r. Warbler	489
Water Pipit	164	Bl. Thr. Green W.	2 (12,13)
Cedar Waxwing	1287	Chestnut-s. Warbler	4 (13,24)
Starling	37,382	Bay-br. Warbler	2 (13)
Solitary Vireo	1 (28)	Palm Warbler	1 (23)
Red-eyed Vireo	2 (24)	Ovenbird	1 (9)
Tennessee Warbler	2 (9)	Common Yellowthroat	6
Nashville Warbler	1 (23)	House Sparrow	2550
Magnolia Warbler	16 (11,19,28)		

Blackbirds - Finches

Eastern Meadowlark	126	Rufous-s. Towhee	29
Red-w. Blackbird	7447	Savannah Sparrow	28
Rusty Blackbird	556	Vesper Sparrow	5
Common Grackle	15,680	Dark-eyed Junco	1404
Brown-h. Cowbird	6038	Chipping Sparrow	111
Cardinal	184	Field Sparrow	127
Rose-br. Grosbeak	7	White-cr. Sparrow	311
Indigo Bunting	1 (9)	White-Thr. Sparrow	1359
Evening Grosbeak	2 (28)	Fox Sparrow	3 (9,11,13)
Purple Finch	209	Lincoln's Sparrow	2 (1,11)
House Finch	210	Swamp Sparrow	64
Pine Siskin	95	Song Sparrow	985
Am. Goldfinch	1345		

Total species; 150

Total Individuals; 138,778

Comments: The day was generally windy, cold, and wet with land birds being particularly hard to find. The most significant bird of the day was a Long-billed Dowitcher from Section Two.

Significant highs included Gadwall, 59 (second highest ever); Bufflehead 100 (highest since 1936); Cooper's Hawk, 14 (tied for all-time high); Bald Eagle, 1 (first time on Count since 1970); Turkey, 73 (third highest ever); Ring-billed Gull, 21,861 (highest since 1956); Mockingbird, 12 (second highest ever); Mourning Dove, 923 (all-time high); Common Grackle, 15680 (highest since 1970); Brown-headed Cowbird, 6083 (highest since 1958); House Finch, 210 (all-time high).

Significant lows included Canada Goose, 2562 (lowest since 1956); Ring-necked Pheasant, 39 (second lowest ever); American Woodcock, 4 (lowest since 1969); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3 (lowest since 1960); Downy Woodpecker, 123 (lowest since 1960); Brown Creeper, 18 (lowest since 1957); Nashville Warbler, 1 (lowest since 1959); Palm Warbler, 1 (lowest since 1953); Eastern Meadowlark, 126 (lowest since 1948); Red-winged Blackbird, 7447 (lowest since 1955); Vesper Sparrow, 5 (lowest since 1935); Fox Sparrow, 3 (tied for lowest since 1956).

Sections and Observers: My sincere thanks go to all the section compilers and observers who made this count a success. In the list that follows, compilers' names are underlined.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Fonthill, Ont.      | <u>Gary Novosel</u> ; Gerald Chappel                                  |
| 2. Thorold, Ont.       | <u>Art Schaffner</u>  |
| 3. Wilson, N.Y.        | <u>Harriette Klabunde</u> , <u>Walter Klabunde</u> , Braunda, Breckow |
| 4. Middleport, N.Y.    | <u>Robert W. Brock</u> , Kyle Brock                                   |
| 5. Oak Orchard, N.Y.   | <u>Dick Christensen</u> , John Morse                                  |
| 6. Port Maitland, Ont. | <u>Ed Williams</u> , Wes Siegner                                      |
| 7. Lowbanks, Ont.      | <u>Ed Fessler</u> , Blayne Farnan, Bos Farnan                         |
| 8. Fort Erie, Ont.     | not covered   |
| 9. Grand Island, N.Y.  | <u>Karen Renning</u> , Alice McKale, Bill McKale                      |



Volume 46, Number 11 - "Fall Bird Count" (con't.)

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10. Akron, N.Y.           | <u>Robert Wagner</u>   |
| 11. Buffalo, N.Y.         | <u>Mike Zebehazy, Peggy Daniels</u>  |
| 12. Lancaster, N.Y.       | <u>Marie Wendling, Anna Baurer, Ima Bill, Ray Fronz,</u><br><u>Tom Harper, Gertrude Webster, Cy Wolfling, Dorothy</u><br><u>and Fred Donner</u>  |
| 13. Batavia, N.Y.         | <u>Jane Mason, Max Mason, David Keller, George Mahaney,</u><br><u>David Whitcomb.</u>  |
| 14. Hamburg, N.Y.         | <u>Richard Byron</u>   |
| 15. Java, N.Y.            | <u>Esther Becker, Dave Junkin, Marion Bee, Bill Bogacki,</u><br><u>Kay Hein</u>  |
| 16. Angola, N.Y.          | <u>Brad Lown</u>   |
| 17. Cattaraugus, N.Y.     | <u>Carolyn Frank, Audrey Horbett</u>   |
| 18. Delevan, N.Y.         | <u>Jane Clark, Don Clark</u>   |
| 19. Fillmore, N.Y.        | <u>Allegany County Bird Club, Katherine Palmer, Mr. &amp;</u><br><u>Mrs. Les Fish, Josephine Main, Helen Morse, Mr. &amp; Mrs.</u><br><u>Emmette Smith, Larry Wilson, Victor Carpenter, Mr. &amp;</u><br><u>Mrs. R.J. Wilson, Emma Burr, Faye Clancy, Lois Harvey.</u><br><u>Frances Rew, Marian Dornhaffer</u>  |
| 20. Dunkirk, N.Y.         | <u>Jamestown Audubon Society, Robert Sundell, Clarence</u>   |
| 21. Cherry Creek, N.Y.    | <u>Beal, Calla Freeman, Jennie Freeman, Martha Hendrickson</u><br><u>Dorothy Pihlblad, Carol Ruby, Marian Werner</u>   |
| 22. Sherman, N.Y.         | <u>Jamestown Audubon Society, Robert Suncell, Robert Price</u>   |
| 23. Frewsburg, N.Y.       | <u>Jamestown Audubon Society, Robert Sundell, Beatrice</u><br><u>Eckberg, Irene Eckberg, David Gagne, Stephen Maggio ,</u><br><u>Thomas Simmons, Sr., Thomas Simmons, Jr., Pauline</u><br><u>Schwartz, Robert Schwartz.</u>  |
| 24. Allegany St. Pk, N.Y. | <u>Cattaraugus County Bird Club, John Forness, Mary Forness</u><br><u>Bill Forness, Tammy Kleiber, Karen Leavens, Robert Ott.</u>  |
| 25. Allegany, N.Y.        | <u>Cattaraugus County Bird Club, John Forness, Mary Forness</u><br><u>Dorothy Baker, Lucille Bordonaro, Margaret Gree, Alene</u><br><u>Johnson, Fred Meyer, Rosamond Seagren, Carl Seagre,</u><br><u>Celeste Skrzeczkowski, Jerry Skrzeczkowski.</u>   |
| 26. Cuba, N.Y.            | <u>Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Lori Burton,</u><br><u>Betty Compton, John Compton, Milford Foster, Sylvia</u><br><u>Foster, Alfred Voorhies, Sharon Baumgardner.</u>  |
| 27. Bolivar, N.Y.         | <u>Allegany County Bird Club, Doris Burton, Doris Hurlburt</u><br><u>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Richmond, Lillian and Stella Simmons,</u><br><u>Arnold Walkins, Helen Apsey, Dolly Hawking, Helen Link.</u>   |
| 28. Alfred, N.Y.          | <u>Allegany County Bird Club, Lorry Chapman, Erma Larson,</u><br><u>Vivian Pitzrick, Elizabeth Brooks, Vivien Carr, Lois</u><br><u>Chapman, Ann Eisenhardt, Peter &amp; Terry Finlay, Eva Ford</u><br><u>Reed, VanKaynor, Clarence Klingensmith, Ellen &amp; Don Lamp</u><br><u>Cathy MacDonald, Mary Ormsby, Beverly Perry, Peggy &amp;</u><br><u>Danny Rase, Agnes &amp; Everett Rhodes, Tome &amp; Harriet</u><br><u>Spleth, Helen Thomas</u> |
| Almond, N.Y.              | <u>Russell Allen, Fred &amp; Dorothy Bayless, Esther Biehl,</u><br><u>Lorna, Don, Sonja &amp; Tara Brink, Ann Catlin, Jim</u><br><u>Copenheaver, Martha Delavegne, Phyllis DuBreuil, Jay &amp;</u><br><u>Louise Gibson, Fay &amp; Ben Heller, Viola Ida, Linn Phelan</u><br><u>Violet Sharrett, Allen &amp; Gladys Witter</u>  |

Volume 46, Number 11 - "Fall Bird Count" (con't.)

28. Alfred, N.Y. (con't.)

Andover, N.Y. Wisner Cook, Ken & Marion McClure, Jim Ninos,  
Connor Stephens

Belmont, N.Y. Lou & Doris Burton, Matthew Hotchkiss, Raymond Pitzric

Scio, N.Y. Vera Brown, Grace Buckley, Dale & Evelyn Coats, Paul &  
Mary Alice Fuller, Martin & Genevieve McQueen, Ona  
Reynolds, Ernest & Lynn Rositke, Burnadean Stein,

Wellsville, NY. June Babcock, Mrs. Ira Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burdi  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cronauer, Miss Christine Ferrand,  
Mrs. Helen Graves, Mrs. Evelyn T. Openhym, Mrs. Bruce  
Taggart, Mrs. Gordon Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. Will m  
Tompson

#### PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

May 13 - "Long Point Bird Observatory: programs for participants." Research Associate Dr. Erica H. Dunn will present a slide-show talk detailing Observatory activities in which volunteers can take part including regular migration monitoring, an annual survey of bird feeders, and a provincial census of Great Blue Herons and other species.

May 27 - "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Catbird..." David Junkin, naturalist/director of Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center returns with a slide-show talk discussing the way bird-banding contributes to our knowledge about the life-history of a species.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, NY. 14211

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the treasurer, Ms. Peggy Daniels at  
18 Concord Drive, Buffalo, NY. 14215

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EDITOR: Michael A. Zebehazy 95 Slate Creek Dr. Cheektowaga, NY. 14221

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

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VOLUME 46

DECEMBER 1980

MAY - NUMBER 12

## THE MONTH

The average temperature for November was  $39.4^{\circ}\text{(F)}$ , slightly below normal for the period while precipitation measuring 2.36 inches was lighter than average. Snowfall as recorded at the Buffalo Airport for the month measured only 6.7 inches, two inches of which accumulated during the first general snow of the season on November 17th. A heavy snowfall of up to 12 inches occurred in the higher elevations of southern Erie County on November 29th but melted rapidly in the above average temperatures at month's end. (Meteorological data as recorded at the Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The first incursion of winter finches occurred during the first week of November with Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks reported from Orchard Park on the 3rd and later in South Wales and Java Center. Pine Grosbeaks were seen at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario and at the Oakland Rural Cemetery in the Town of Porter in Niagara County on November 16th. The Pine Grosbeak is not a common winter finch on the Niagara Frontier but the records on the 16th were overshadowed by the presence of a male Black-throated Gray Warbler, also at Niagara-on-the-Lake, on that date. The bird was discovered by Harold Axtell on November 13th when he identified it in a flock of Black-capped Chickadees moving through the ornamental evergreens bordering the estate of John Mackey at 456 Queen Street in that community. It is only the third verified record of this western parulid in our study area. The warbler proved to be as obliging as the Painted Redstart which became the most famous resident of Dansville, N.Y. last winter and it remained in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the rest of the month. On November 16th, over 150 bird-watchers from Buffalo, Hamilton, Ontario, Toronto, Rochester and Cleveland gathered at the Mackey estate to see the warbler and, as an additional fillip, a late Solitary Vireo in its company both in the evergreens and in willow trees on an adjacent golf course. Mr. Mackey proved to be a gracious host, serving coffee to many of the visitors who came from near and far to add the bird to their life's list. The warbler was later reported at feeders on Prideaux Street and Victoria Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at Fort George, south of the village.



The first white-winged larids of the season were reported from the gorge at Niagara Falls and at the Sir Adam Beck Power Station at Queenston, Ontario on November 16th when both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were seen. On the 23rd, a white-winged Gull seen at the Adam Beck station and which superficially resembled an Iceland Gull of the kumlieni race, confounded the experts who thought it probable that they were looking at a Thayer's x Iceland Gull hybrid. The Adam Beck station was also the scene of several observations of Thayer's Gull, both immature and adult birds, during November. At least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, both adults, were seen on the Niagara River during the month but only one report of a Franklin's Gull at Niagara Falls was received. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported both from Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, Ontario where Robert Andrle and his gull study group saw two on November 22nd.

Interesting records for the month also include three blue morph Snow Geese at Langford Pond in North Collins on November 2nd. On November 5th and 6th, six Rough-winged Swallows were reported from Goat Island at Niagara Falls and Andrle and his party had a single bird of this species at Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 22nd! These are the latest dates this swallow has ever been seen in our study area. A single Brant was reported on the west branch of the Niagara River off of Grand Island but apparently no local observers witnessed the migrating flocks on Lake Ontario this fall. On November 12th, eight Purple Sandpipers were seen on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie between Rock Point Provincial Park and Selkirk. Two Purple Sandpipers were seen among the rocks of the upper rapids at Niagara Falls on the 22nd. Although no official reports were received by the compiler, several observers saw Snowy Owls in November but there was no indication of a major southward flight this winter. For the third consecutive year a male adult Barrow's Goldeneye has appeared among the Common Goldeneyes wintering at the water impoundment below Dufferin Island at Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Finally, on November 22nd, Bob Andrle and his museum gull study class were distracted from their labors at the overlook at the Sir Adam Beck Power Station at Queenston by the sight of a magnificent white phase Gyrfalcon sailing by at almost eye level in front of them. The excitement of the find was tempered by a pair of black flaconer's jesses dangling from the bird's legs. This was the first sighting of a bird destined to become locally celebrated during the coming winter by its peregrinations up and down the Niagara River and the south shore of Lake Erie.

Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the 'Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year
- F - Indicates first record for the migrations
- L - Indicates last record for the migration

Volume 46, Number 12-"Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
	November			
Common Loon	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
	5	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	16,23	2,2	Niagara Falls	Andrle et al
Horned Grebe	1	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Pied-billed Grebe	2	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
D.-crest. Cormorant	30	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtell, Happ
Canada Goose	24	500	Langford	McKales
Gadwall	16	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Wood Duck	1	5	Alfred	Brooks
Canvasback	11	2000	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Barrow's Goldeneye	16	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, Schaffner
Barrow's Goldeneye	17-29	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtell
*King Eider	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle, Foster
W. Scoter	29	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Axtell, Salisbury
White-w. Scoter	16	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
	23	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
Surf Scoter	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	McKales
Sharp-sh. Hawk	11	1	Town of Arkwright	Thill
	12,30	1,1	Wales	Rosches
	20	1	Belmont	Burtons
Cooper's Hawk	1,6,10,11	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
	9	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	12-25	1	Darien Center	Harper
	18,27	1,1	Belmont	Burtons
	19	1	Dunnville Twp., Ont.	Duncan
	27	1	Elma	Bee
Rough-leg. Hawk	22	1	Lewiston	Andrle et al
Killdeer	17-22	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Purple Sandpiper	16	4	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
	22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtell
Dunlin	16	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle et al
	16	4	Niagara Falls	Schaffner et al
	21L	24	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Duncan
Sanderling	21L	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Duncan
Red Phalarope	21	1	Rock Pt. Prov. Park	Duncan
Glaucous Gull	16F	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner et al
Iceland Gull	16F	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Schaffner, et al
*L.g. Kumlieni	23	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
Lesser Black-b. Gull	10	1	Queenston, Ont.	Axtell
Lesser Black-b. Gull	30	1	Queenston, Ont.	Axtell
	(two different birds)			
Bonaparte's Gull	30	20,000	Niagara River	Axtell
Little Gull	2	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle et al
	16		Youngstown	Schaffner et al



Volume 46, Number 12-"Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Bl.-leg. Kittiwake	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Bl.-leg. Kittiwake	19	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Bl.-leg. Kittiwake	22 (lad.)	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Bl.-leg. Kittiwake	23 (ad.)	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1,4,11,12	1,1,1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	17,18	1,1	Wales	Rosches
	27-30	1	Spring Brook	Danner
Red-headed Wdpkr.	16	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Andrle et al
Rough-w. Swallow	22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle et al
Tufted Titmouse	4,16	1,2	Spring Brook	Danner
	10-28	1	Elma	Forsberg
Carolina Wren	20,30	1,1	Spring Brook	Danner
Mockingbird	3	1	Belmont	Burtens
	16	1	Town of Porter	Schaffner et al
	19	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	23	1	Niagara Glen, Ont.	Klabundes
American Robin	11	200	Town of Charlotte	Thills, Welch
Hermit Thrush	23	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Eastern Bluebird	1-16	1-3	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
Cedar Warwing	2-16	100	Belmont	Burtens
	8	200	Wales	Rosches
Nashville Warbler	5L	1	Alfred	Brooks
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	1	Spring Brook	Danner
	11	1	Alfred	Brooks
*Bl.-thr. Gray Warbler	13,16	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Axtell
Bl.-thr. Gray Warbler	16	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Andrle, Schaffner et al
Northern Waterthrush	6	1	Darien Center	Harper
Cardinal	28	26	Fort Erie, Ont. (f)	Axtell
Evening Grosbeak	1-30	1-46	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
	3,17,20	2-4	Orchard Park	Saville
	5,10,26	50,10,20	Wales (f)	Rosche
	5-30	3-15	Belmont	Burtens
	15-30	18	Holland	Becker
	22-30	1-30	Alfred	Brooks
House Finch	1-24	1-10	Lewiston	Klabundes
	1-30	6-10	Belmont	Burtens
	1-30	15-30	Eggertsville (f)	McKales
	1-28	1-4	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
	4	2	Holland	Becker
	20,25	1,1	Belmont	Brooks
*Pine Grosbeak	16F	2	Town of Porter	Andrle et al
Common Redpoll	3-18	4-27	Orchard Park	Saville
Pine Siskin	5	25	Orchard Park	Saville
	28	30	Town of Newfane	Rosche et al
Red Crossbill	16	2	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Andrle et al
*White-w. Crossbill	16	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Schaffner et al

Volume 46, Number 12-"Noteworthy Records" (con't.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tree Sparrow	2F	1	Alfred	Brooks
	7-30	2	Darien Center (f)	Harper
	10-30	6-12	Belmont	Burtons
	10-30	4-10	Spring Brook	Danner
	19	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Chipping Sparrow	1-5	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
	12	1	Wales	Rosches
	12	1	Holland	Becker
White-cr. Sparrow	1-30	1-4	Belmont	Burtons
	1,2	1,1	Amity	Pitzrick
	3-13	1	Orchard Park	Saville
	4	1	Holland	Becker
White-thr. Sparrow	1-30	40	Fort Erie, Ont. (f)	Axtell
	1-30	10	Darien Center (f)	Harper
	5	10	Wales (f)	Rosches
	1-30	2-17	Amity	Pitzrick
	(maximum counts for the month)			
Swamp Sparrow	16	1	Alfred	Brooks
Snow Bunting	16	50	Fort Niagara St.Pk.	Andrle et al

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded this year.....256

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue..... 6

Total for year.....262

Record for July, 1980

Art Schaffner

Errata for July, 1980

Double-crested Cormorant-July 27 - 1 - Rock Pt. Prov. Park-Schaffner, Clarke  
should read July 27-1 - Mohawk Island, Ont.-Schaffner, A.Clarks

Green-w. Teal - July 11,16 - 12,12 - St. David's, Ont. - Schaffner, Klabunde  
should read - July 11,16 - 1,1 - St. David's, Ont. - Schaffner, Klabunde

Stilt Sandpiper - July 30 - 31 - St.David's, Ont. - Schaffner, Axtell  
should read- July 30 - 31 - St.David's, Ont. - Schaffner, Klabunde

Grapevine Revitalized

At a recent meeting B.O.S. members voted to reorganize the Grapevine - a telephone schedule which quickly alerts members to sightings of rare or unusual birds.

It works this way; Someone finds an unusual bird. As soon as possible he or she calls the chairman of the Grapevine, who then calls three or four people,



Volume 46, Number 12-"Grapevine"(con't.)

each of whom, in turn, calls several more. This continues until all who have asked to be on the network have been alerted.

This system works only if each member on the network call the persons on his or her list as soon as possible. If you are interested, please give your name and telephone number to Maxine Barber (683-3061).

#### BIRD BANDING 1979

by Regina M. Van Scoy

This report summarizes the bird banding activities for 1979 on our private refuge of 9 acres. The property is situated in an east-west valley, elevation approximately 1470 feet, at 42'00" latitude and 78'30" longitude. It is approximately 1 mile east of Limestone, on Nichols Run Road, Township of Carrollton, Cattaraugus County, New York State. The mailing address is RD #1 Box 153, Limestone, New York 14753.

This was the first full year of operation with banding conducted on 129 days. A total of 1397 birds of 43 species were banded during 1979.

We maintain year round feeders and trapping at these feeders was accomplished by using 1-10 single cell Potter Traps and 1 all purpose maze trap. In spring and fall 1-5 12 meter mist nets were also used. We have a total of 50 nest boxes on the property and nestlings in these boxes were also banded.

There were eleven (11) new species recorded on our property - many of these were noted due to banding activities.

For the second year in a row a White-breasted Nuthatch nested in one of our boxes and successfully reared 7 young. We also had 3 successful Eastern Bluebird nestings with 16 young fledged.

Both my husband, James, and I were active in the Cattaraugus County Bird Club in 1979. I as editor of the newsletter and President and James as membership chairman. We participated in all Buffalo Ornithological Society Counts (April, May, October). I was compiler for the St. Bonaventure Christmas Count and we also conducted the Vandalia Breeding Bird Survey for the third year.

Monthly feeder, sight, and banding reports are sent to Vivian Pitzrick, regional editor for the Kingbird published by the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs and also to Joseph Thill editor of the Prothonotary, newsletter of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Nesting records are sent to the Nest Record Card Program, at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Summaries of my 1978 banding report were published in the Prothonotary (Buffalo Ornithological Society) and in the Catbird (Cattaraugus County Bird Club) newsletters. My fall report was published in Vol. 4 no. 4 of North American Bird Bander in the Atlantic Flyway Review.

Volume 46, Number 12 - "Bird Banding" (con't.)

With Elizabeth W. Brooks as coauthor an article was published in Vol.4, no.2 page 61 of the North American Bird Bander entitled "Two Occurrences of Auditory Abnormality in the Dark-eyed Junco."

Several lectures dealing with bird banding were given during 1979.  
May 13, 1979 - at the 6th Ward School, Bradford, Pennsylvania. Kindergarden through sixth grade - approximately 200 children plus teachers.  
August 10, 1979 - Olean Public Library Summer Program - approximately 45 children and 6 adults.

Bird Banding 1979 Limestone, New York

Summary of 1979 Banding Totals by Species:

Yellow Shafted Flicker	1
Eastern Phoebe	3
Tree Swallow	17
Blue Jay	95
Black-capped Chickadee	87
Tufted Titmouse	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
House Wren	21
Catbird	3
Robin	6
Swainson's Thrush	1
Veery	1
Eastern Bluebird	14
Cedar Waxwing	5
Starling	8
Tennessee Warbler	7
Nashville Warbler	3
Yellow Warbler	1
Cape May Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	4
Black-throated Green Warbler	1
Yellowthroat	3
Red-winged Blackbird	30
Baltimore Oriole	3
Common Grackle	31
Brown-headed Cowbird	253
Cardinal	7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Indigo Bunting	1
Evening Grosbeak	292
Purple Finch	4
House Finch	1
American Goldfinch	142
Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Dark-eyed Junco (S.C.)	180
Tree Sparrow	55



Volume 46, Number 12-"Bird Banding" (con't.)

Chipping Sparrow	8
Field Sparrow	28
White-crowned Sparrow	2
White-throated Sparrow	5
Lincoln's Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	53

1397 Total Birds Banded of 43 species at Limestone, New York 1979

1554 Total Birds Banded of 44 species at Limestone, New York 1978 & 1979.

Ten Most Commonly Banded Birds

Top 10 - 1979

Evening Grosbeak	292
Brown-headed Cowbird	253
Dark-eyed Junco	180
American Goldfinch	142
Blue Jay	95
Black-capped Chickadee	87
Tree Sparrow	55
Song Sparrow	53
Common Grackle	31
Red-winged Blackbird	30

Top 10 - two year total

Evening Grosbeak	292
Brown-headed Cowbird	253
Dark-eyed Junco	225
Blue Jay	153
American Goldfinch	149
Black-capped Chickadee	98
Tree Sparrow	68
Song Sparrow	55
Common Grackle	31
Red-winged Blackbird	30

Distribution of Banding Totals by Families

<u>Family</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>
Picidae	.07	
Tyrannidae	.21	
Hirundinidae	1.22	
Corvidae	6.80	36.94
Paridae	6.51	7.00
Stittidae	.72	.63
Troglodytidae	1.50	
Mimidae	.21	
Turdidae	1.57	2.54
Bombycillidae	.36	1.27
Sturnidae	.57	
Parulidae	1.43	5.09
Ploceidae		.63
Icteridae	22.69	
Fringillidae	56.12	45.85
% Total of	1397 Birds	157 Birds

Summary of Banding Operations

<u>Year</u>	<u>Birds Caught</u> <u>Nets</u>	<u>Birds Caught</u> <u>Trap</u>	<u>Nestling</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1978	43	114		157	
1979	186	1171	40	1397	
<u>Year</u>	<u># Days Banded</u>	<u>New Birds</u>	<u>Repeats</u>	<u>Returns</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
1978	29	157	22	1	
1979	129	1397	359	60	3

Banding Repeats and Returns in 1979

The following birds were trapped less than 90 days (repeats) or more than 90 days (returns) after the banding date.

<u>Species</u>	<u># of individuals</u>	<u>Repeats</u>	<u>Returns</u>
Blue Jay	16	9	8
Starling	1	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	63	88	
Red-winged Blackbird	4	5	
Common Grackle	1	1	
Evening Grosbeak	23	28	
American Goldfinch	39	56	9
Tree Sparrow	31	49	2
Chipping Sparrow	5	3	7
Field Sparrow	3	8	
Slate-colored Junco	35	35	6
Song Sparrow	8	9	3
Cardinal	2	1	2
Tree Swallow	1	1	
House Wren	1	1	
White-Br. Nuthatch	4	3	4
Red-Br. Nuthatch	3	3	
Tufted Titmouse	1	1	
Black-c. Chickadee	40	51	18
American Robin	1	2	
Eastern Bluebird	4	4	1

INJURIES, DEFORMITIES OR ABNORMALITIES NOTED ON BANDED BIRDS

1510-97102	Tree Sparrow 01-23-79	Right Leg, last digit on hallux missing
881-74071	Evening Grosbeak 02-17-79	Right foot, center toe, last digit missing.
881-74192	Evening Grosbeak 02-23-79	Right foot, last digit on outer toe missing.
852-21112	Red-winged Blackbird 03-26-79	Left foot - scaley leg.
852-21115	Red-winged Blackbird 03-29-79	Right foot - scaley leg.
1241-24029	Song Sparrow 04-06-79	Leg joint broken at foot and swollen. An old injury healed but foot turns in.
1510-97372	American Goldfinch 05-02-79	Right foot, center toe crooked. Left foot hallux with a knob on end.



Volume 46, Number 12-"Banding" (con't.)

1510-97377 Chipping Sparrow 05-09-79 Left foot center toe missing, right foot, center toe nail missing.  
1510-97459 Field Sparrow 10-27-79 Left foot, center toe, swollen at base.  
1510-97472 Slate-colored Junco 10-27-79 Left foot, center toe, knob on end with no toe nail.

Recoveries in 1979

There were two recoveries during 1979 - both Blue Jays.

#852-21016 Banded on 09-05-78 as an HY U at Limestone. It was recovered on 02-23-79 in Bradford, Pennsylvania by Nancy Watkins. The bird was found sitting on the ground, with no apparent injuries, but in an emaciated condition. The recovery site is 10 miles south of Limestone. The bird died within an hour.

852-21031 Banded on 12-23-78 as an HY U at Limestone. It was found dead on 07-10-79, along the road, at the banding site, by my neighbor Bradley Stahlman.

Foreign Retraps

There were three foreign retraps in 1979.

Evening Grosbeak - #801-71900 Banded on 02-02-78 by Lawrence Pharo, near Whiting, New Jersey, as an AHY F. It was trapped on 02-11-79 at Limestone, New York as an AHY F. The banding site is approximately 254 miles south east of Limestone.

Evening Grosbeak - #871-13956 - Banded on 02-12-79 by Mrs. John J. Patton near Woodcock, Pennsylvania, as an AHY F. It was trapped on 03-26-79 at Limestone as an AHY F. The banding site is approximately 75 miles south west of Limestone.

American Goldfinch - #1470-06267 - Banded on 01-28-78 by personnel of MacDonald College near Collins Bay, Ontario, Canada, as an AHY F. It was trapped at Limestone, New York on 04-28-79 as an AHY F.

Nesting Records

All nests reported were located on our nine acre refuge and were reported to the Nest Record Card Program of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Ithaca, New York.

No special effort was made to locate nests. However, the nest boxes (50) which we maintain were carefully monitored during the breeding season.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Nests</u>	<u>Number of young successfully fledged - if known</u>
Tree Swallow	9	17
House Wren	10	42 + ?
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	7
House Sparrow	1	5
Eastern Bluebird	3	16
Robin	2	7
Brown Thrasher	1	3
Barn Swallow	1	5
Chipping Sparrow	1	2 + 1 Cowbird

Species observed on Refuge

From February 23, 1975 to December 31, 1979 a total of 106 species have been observed on the refuge. Eleven (11) new species were recorded during 1979, many of these due to banding activities. Following is a listing of the new species.

Black-throated Green Warbler	09-25-78	(omitted in 1978 report)
Brown Creeper	02-14-79	
House Finch	04-21-79	
Canada Warbler	05-09-79	
Overbird	05-10-79	
Wilson's Warbler	05-15-79	
Blackpoll Warbler	05-22-79	
Rough-winged Swallow	06-20-79	
Tennessee Warbler	09-26-79	
Swainson's Thrush	09-30-79	
Lincoln's Sparrow	09-30-79	
Cape May Warbler	10-02-79	

Vivian Mills Pitzrick  
Amity Lake, Belmont  
N.Y. 14813 Allegany Co.  
Submitted to the Allegany  
County Bird Club News Letter  
for March

Helps for the Bluebird Trail

by Vivian Mills Pitzrick

What is more delightful than hearing that first Bluebird of the season? Three arrived at Amity Lake Feb. 20 (1981) at 8:20 a.m. to perch in the willows on the shore and later inspect that sumac we had put out for them in front of our picture windows. This is the earliest we have had our State bird, Sialia sialis, here in the spring, except of course when a few overwintered.

A check along part of my Bluebird Trail a few days later disclosed that human predators had carried off another box. While perhaps it should be flattering that they would accept the amateur carpentry — female at that —, we hope the box is used for the purpose originally intended.

As the new season begins and new trails are considered or old ones are improved, a review of ways to make boxes more enticing to the Bluebirds may be helpful, and any further suggestions from readers are always welcome. Specifications for excellent nest boxes are so prevalent that they are not repeated here.

Probably the most important consideration is habitat which has radically become less suitable for our Eastern Bluebird with the disappearance of old orchards and the abandonment of farm land to brush. The box should be in an open area with brush and weeds cut down, and kept down through the season, but facing a small shrub 15 to 20 feet away to which young may fly when fledging. A nearby lawn or pasture area is helpful as Bluebirds like to perch on a stub about three feet up and drop into short



grass to feed. Some suggest there be no trees near, but I find that a small isolated tree about 20 feet from the box serves as a lookout for adults before they approach the nest.

Although several species may compete with Bluebirds for the boxes, there are ways to discourage them. (1) House Wrens -- Keep boxes away from woodsey areas; pull out nests if the wrens start to build. House Wrens will puncture or throw out Bluebird eggs and even kill young Bluebirds in a box. One has to be ruthless with the wrens. (2) House Sparrows -- Set boxes at some distance from buildings. Pull out nests and eggs if these birds start to build. Sometimes an unset trap in the box or on the roof will discourage them as years of being trapped makes them very wary. Bluebirds seem to pay no attention to the trap and will even build over it. Because these weaver birds will not only throw out Bluebird eggs but will also kill adult and young Bluebirds in the nest, be very ruthless with these pests. (3) Starling -- Be sure the entrance is exactly  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  inches -- no larger. Then the Starling is too big to get inside. (4) Tree Swallows -- Setting out more boxes will usually take care of the demand for nesting sites. While Bluebirds need at least 300 feet between boxes, Tree Swallows will use sites as close as ten feet. (I have as many as eight boxes in a "cluster". Last year Bluebirds used one and Tree Swallows six, while one remained empty.) Tree Swallows are superb mosquito consumers and ver useful.

To discourage predators, the box should be on a metal pole or sheathed post and at least four feet up to be out of reach of cats and racoons. (It should be easily opened and not more than  $5 \frac{1}{4}$  feet up for easy monitoring.) A two-inch block with  $1 \frac{1}{4}$  inch hole may be nailed over the opening to keep racoons from reaching the nest. As for trouble from snakes, weasels and squirrels, so far my only remedy has been to move the box to a different area.

A very serious threat to the Bluebird nestlings can be the bloodsucking larvae of the Blow Fly (genus Prothocalliphora). It is good to dust the boxes when cleaning them in March, using 1 % Rotenone dust, as prepared for gardening. This takes care of any mites. While harassment of the adult Bluebirds during their nest-building should be avoided, as soon as their clutch of four to six eggs is complete, the eggs should be dusted with the garden Rotenone which will filter down into the nesting material. (Dust added much before this time will have lost its strength by the time the eggs hatch.) When the young are about five days old, the nest should be inspected next to the floor for larvae which may range from pin head size to an inch in length. If larvae are discovered, using SUPREME CAUTION and delicacy in any handling of the young birds, carefully remove any larvae clinging to the nestlings and replace the nesting material with clean dry grass. It is wise to collect the larvae and nesting material, remove and burn them. Do not dust the new nest lest the little birds be harmed. In five to seven days the nest should be reinspected in the same way. It is best not to open the box after the nestlings are 12 days old as they may fledge prematurely. As soon as the young leave from the first nesting, the box should be cleaned out, redusted and carefully monitored as before.

Does all this procedure sound like a lot of baby sitting? When you count 69 brand new little Bluebirds that fledged from your Trail, and when fall rolls around and as many as 32 Bluebirds flock into your back yard, as happened here last year, your heart, too, will sing, "It is worth it all!"

Vivian Mills Pitzrick  
Amity Lake, Belmont  
New York 14813

PROGRAM - MEETINGS & FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June, inclusive, in the Society's club rooms at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

- May 13 - "Long Point Bird Observatory: programs for Participants." Research Associate Dr. Erica H. Dunn will present a slide-show talk detailing Observatory activities in which volunteers can take part including regular migration monitoring, an annual survey of bird feeders, and a provincial census of Great Blue Herons and other species.
- May 24 - Reinstein's preserve in Cheektowaga. Meet at Bell's Market, Como Park Mall, Union Rd. at Como Park Boulevard, Cheektowaga. Time: 8:00a.m. Leader: Mike Zebehazy (668-0351)
- May 27 - "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Catbird..." David Junkin, naturalist/director of Beaver Meadow Environmental Education Center returns with a slide-show talk discussing the way bird-banding contributes to our knowledge about the life-history of a species.
- June 14- Hunters Creek Park, Meet at Citibank, Transitown Plaza, Main St. at Transit Rd., Clarence, N.Y. at 8:00 a.m. or at 9:00 a.m. at the Centerline entrance to the park. Leader: Ed Fessler (691-8553)

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler, Mr. Joseph Thill 36 Allegany Ave. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

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INDEX TO VOLUME 46 (JANUARY - DECEMBER 1980)

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Bird records from the Noteworthy Records of The Prothonotary and the B.O.S. Bird Counts requiring written verification according to the 'Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario' (B.O.S. 1976) are included in this index.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>FEATURE ARTICLES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Blackbird, Yellow-headed	68	Shorebirds at Cannery Ponds	111
Dickcissel	5	Prairie Warbler Back	94
Goldeneye, Barrow's	3,9,22,35,47,135	Wood Sandpiper	76
Egret, Snowy	118	Helps for the Bluebird Trail	143
Falcon, Peregrine	119		
Finch, House	5,25,37,49,85,99	<u>CONTRIBUTORS</u>	
Flycatcher, Acadian	82	Andrle, Robert	13,76,106,113,121
Goose, White-fr.	69	Barber, Maxine	137
Goshawk	9,48,98	Brock, Robert	102
Grebe, Eared	109	Burch, William	76
Gull, Franklin's	69	Clark, Donald	38,60
, Lesser Black-backed	4,23,69	Daniels, Peggy	8
, Kumlien's L.s.	135	Forness, John & Mary	86
, Sabine's	6	Foster, Marcya	28
Kittiwake, Bl.-lg.	136	Freeland, David	6
Rail, Yellow	126	Klabunde, Harriette & Walter	27
Sandpiper, Buff-br.	119	Klabunde, Walter	59,73,76,91
Sparrow, Clay-colored	85		99,101,112
, Fox	10	Lambert, Anne	115
Warbler, Black-thr. gray	136	Lown, Bradley	129
		McCrimmon, Donald	29
<u>FEATURE ARTICLES</u>		Peck, George	61
Breeding Bird Atlas	15	Pitzrick, Vivian	30,93,94,143
Atlas Progress	76	Reckhow, Alan	25
Atlas Report	113	Renning, Karen	17,30,42,43
Bird Banding at Farmersville	38	Thill, Joseph	1,19,33,45,63,76
Summary of 14 years of			96,108,117,125,133
Bird Banding	50	Van Scoy, Regina	138
Bird Banding at Limestone, 1979	138	Williams, Edward	69
Fish & Wildlife Breeding		Zebchazy, Michael	122
Bird Survey, 1980	112		
Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey	116	<u>ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES</u>	
Hawk Watch at Grimsby, March 1980	59	<u>Field Trips:</u>	
, April 1980	73,176	Hawk Watch	73
Hawk Migration, Lake Ontario	98	Lake Ontario Plain	27
Hawk Watch at Beamer, 1980	91	Owl Outing in Ontario	28
Great Blue Heron in New York State	104	Tifft Farm Trip	115
The Month	1,19,33,45,65,79		
	96,108,117,125,133	<u>Bird Counts:</u>	
Nesting Record - the Brown		Christmas Count, B.O.S.	6
Creeper	93	Others in BOS Study Area	11
Bird Photography Made Difficult	102	January Waterfowl Count	25
Lessons from a Hasty Observation	122	April Bird Count	69
Philippine Eagle	77		



<u>ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>Bird Counts: (Cont.)</u>	
May Bird Count	86
Fall Bird Count	129
 <u>NOTES &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>	
B.O.S. New Officers and Council Members	14
Dial-A-Bird Reports Requested	106
Errata	137
Federation Meeting - Call for Papers	115
Grapevine Revitalized	137
Marsh Hawk Data Requested	60
Ontario Nest Record Scheme	61
Secretary's Minutes of the Meetings	8,17,20,42,43
Statisticians' Note on House Finches	121
Four Pelegic Trips Scheduled	115
Tifft Farm Bird Walks	115

















